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Summer 2016

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## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



128  
EDITION

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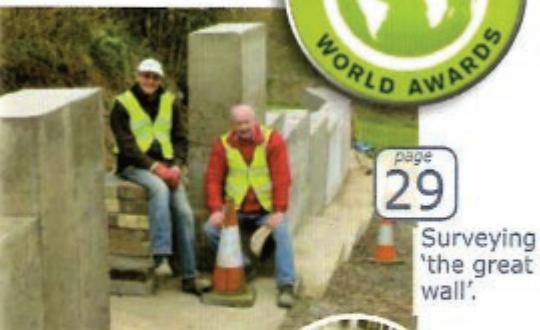
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Speeding on the Basin



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Cover image:

The completed housing development by Dymock Pool. Maggie Jones.



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Chairman's Column by Janet Moult

## Our achievements over the past couple of years

You may – or may not – have noticed that there has not been a Chairman's Column for the last couple of years. When I became Chairman (again) it was one of my stipulations!

Sadly Cliff Penny is not well enough to write his editorial so there is space in this issue. We wish Cliff a speedy recovery.

Looking back over these years so much has happened in H&G CT. In Hereford the overflow weir in Aylestone Park has been completed and the Holmer planning application approved which will see more of the Canal restored. Work continues at Yarkhill, the Kymin, Moat Farm and at Newent the station platforms have appeared from the undergrowth.

Our property portfolio has expanded with the acquisition of our Canalside house at Dymock – now rented out, and, of course the Travellers Rest – now flourishing as **Malswick House**. The cottages at Llanthony have been refurbished and bring in more income.

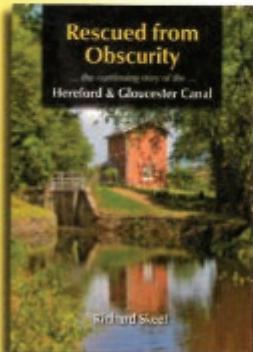
**The Wharf House** continues to win awards and is a well-used destination for those attending the Cheltenham Festival and the Three Choirs Festival.

H&G CT lost its Treasurer, and I lost a dear friend with the passing Liz Connors – we shall be honouring her memory in a number of ways.

An outstanding event was the publication of *Rescued from Obscurity*, written by our former chairman Dick Skeet. Copies have found their way to all parts of the UK.

These are just some of the visible events over the last two years, with much, much more to come!

We wish Cliff a speedy recovery. » JM



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by John Hammond

The “CoMmunication” article in the last issue encouraged members to volunteer in any way they felt might be of help to H&G CT – an invitation which remains open – and I am particularly grateful to two who did so.

One is Philip Marshall, who has offered his services as a skilled bricklayer in the past but has now agreed to act as the independent examiner of the H&G CT accounts, a task which is a statutory requirement and for which he is well qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA). He will replace the long-established service provided by Davies, Edwards & Co of Leominster, the firm which has supported

H&G CT for many years and to which we are most grateful but which, necessarily, has levied a charge to cover its costs. His offer to help was most timely as it came just two days before the end of our financial year (29 February 2016) and, as the new Treasurer, I was about to tackle the complex task of creating the formal accounts. Needless to say, his guidance has been extremely helpful and the accounts are now completed, for CoM to approve (I hope) at the 18 May meeting, and the AGM to do likewise on 19 July.

The other is Clive Weston who got in touch in mid-March. His background is as an international business consultant with particular expertise in HR. He offered in the

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first instance to carry out a review of how CoM operates, its role in managing the activities of H&G CT, and both internal and external communications. He has made rapid progress. He has arranged and held extended interviews with each member of CoM, and is preparing a report for presentation at the 18 May meeting. I much look forward to this, and to the ensuing discussion, although I recognise we may be presented with some tough challenges! But I am confident the result will be of substantial benefit to H&G CT.

These two positive developments are a result of communication, which is a key part of our success – in this case communication with our members. Just as important is communication with the wider public, and that includes both the national scene where we continue to feature in high profile ways, particularly in the waterways press, and those local communities directly affected by the Canal and on whose support we are very dependent. A good example is our successful partnership with the Dymock community which led not only to substantial benefits for both them and us, but has also won us international recognition (see the Green Apple article on page 6).

Another recent example of communication with our local communities took place in Newent on 14 April. John Telre, chairman of Oxenhall Parish Council, organised a meeting attended by some 60 people at which Wilf Jones and I provided answers to previously circulated questions and were then able to engage in discussion with

those present. Carolyn Pascall, Brian Fox and Richard Beard, a regular Oxenhall volunteer, were also there. It was an interesting, at times challenging, occasion with a wide range of views expressed, showing support for our overall objective mixed with concerns about some specific aspects of our plans. Many of these were based on misunderstandings of our intentions, in particular on unfounded rumours of our supposed "rights" over others' interests, so we did our best to overcome such unhelpful impressions. We welcome the interest shown by so many and the level of support for the general principle of restoration.

We intend to participate in many more such public meetings where we can explain to local groups what we are doing or planning, and why, and can hear and discuss their views. After all, our vision for the Canal is based on benefits for all, both local communities and visitors: as a haven of peace and a green corridor supporting a rich and varied ecology, with full public access, and as a proven attraction bringing major economic and employment benefits to the area. An independent analysis by British Waterways in 2009 estimated that the wider community would benefit from £20m new income per year and 500 full-time new jobs resulting from a rebuilt H&G Canal. Those numbers can only have increased in the last seven years, and they are a very significant factor for the local economy and a reason why community leaders and all the local Councils share our vision.

» JH

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[www.h-g-canal.org.uk](http://www.h-g-canal.org.uk)

# Green Apple Award 2016

by Carolyn Pascall



## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

**H&G Canal Trust** has won an International Green Apple Award 2016 for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage. The Award was given for **Dymock Partnership Project**.

The Project, a partnership between H&G Canal Trust and Dymock Parish Council, and supported by Two Rivers Housing Association and the landowner, Tomack Developments, was formulated carefully to meet requirements of all four parties.

The purpose was to create the Canal Basin in the centre of the village combined with much needed community benefits for Dymock village in the form of additional parking, a play area, a new footpath, a greatly improved public environment and, most importantly, twenty new houses, mostly already occupied, to accommodate the increased population essential to protect the village school, the community-owned pub and other village facilities. We are most grateful for the support of our long term partner Keyway in constructing the basin, and after its completion H&G CT volunteers planted over 500 trees together with native wildflower mix and wild daffodil bulbs, rescued by H&G CT volunteers from the site before the development began. In the next



Two Rivers Housing Association

David Thomas (GP Thomas), David Penny (H&G CT), Garry King (Two Rivers Housing), Dorothy Brooks, Terry Ball (Parish Council).

few months H&G CT will be working with the Parish Council to install benches and complete the landscaping around the basin, and we shall also be installing both a 65m deep borehole to provide a long-term top-up water supply and an overflow channel for the basin.

As part of the deal, one of the houses was purchased at cost price by H&G CT for renting out, to provide an income stream for the maintenance of the Canal. This is in line with H&G CT's plan to provide a financially sustainable independent Canal which does not require support from public bodies or other charities for its future operation and maintenance, but can be enjoyed by everyone. In addition the five Open Market houses pay an annual sum towards the upkeep of the Canal.

The site for the Canal Basin and new development was previously of no value to

the community but has become a major asset. All parties have gained through the success of this collaborative project. The complex legal process required to bring this to fruition over nearly eight years required a huge commitment to best practice by senior personnel: in H&G CT the professional legal advisers were led by David Penny, a committed full-time volunteer. In Two Rivers Housing Association, senior staff were also committed to the success of the project, and Tomack Developments together with the builder, GP Thomas, overcame numerous obstacles to achieve success. The Chairman of Dymock Parish Council was supportive throughout, and his members were also determined to achieve the promised benefits for the whole Dymock community.

The Dymock Partnership Project was one of more than 100 nominations for the Green Apple Environment Awards for 2016, part of the international campaign to find the greenest companies, councils and

communities. This is the second time H&G CT has won a Green Apple Award – we were a Gold Award winner in 2014 in the Eco Tourism category for our work, in particular, at Over and The Wharf House.

» CP

## Green Apple Awards

The Green Apple Awards began in 1994 and have become established as the country's major recognition for environmental endeavour. The awards are organised by The Green Organisation, an independent, non-political, non-activist, non-profit environment group dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting environmental best practice around the world. The Green Apple Awards are supported by the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Chartered Institution for Wastes Management and other independent bodies.

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Rebuilding a sustainable Canal between Hereford & Gloucester

## New Length of the Canal unveiled at LEDBURY DRAFT PLAN



Another new partnership is planned on the line of the Canal. This time it is to the north of Ledbury.

**Bloor Homes** plans to build 625 homes, and most importantly, will include a half mile of the Canal along the western side.

The masterplan was unveiled to the people of Ledbury at a public consultation on 10 May. This brings together another partnership where H&G CT can play a key role in the progress and fruition of the plan. Working closely with local Herefordshire and Ledbury Councillors, Bloor Homes and H&G CT can bring another stretch of Canal into water.

Ledbury has always been a key area where H&G CT has had great support from **Ledbury Civic Society, Town Council** and other groups within the town. The development of the town since the Canal closed in 1881 means that a diversion from the original route of the Canal will be around the outside of the bypass through

the waterside park and along the River Leadon corridor.

Until now we have not had the means to bring back the Canal to the town of Ledbury so this could prove a very significant step forward with a brand new flight of locks and an extension of the already well used Waterside Park.

» DRP

### Withington Group Parish

Here four parish councils act together as one group and we were very pleased to be invited to four AGMs in one!

This gave us a great opportunity to share what is currently happening on the Canal and answer questions about our work in a Parish that is both a Corporate Member (*thank you*) and has long links with the H&G CT.

» DRP

# Spring Makeover at Malswick House

By Maggie Jones

With a list of twelve tasks to do at our pub at Malswick, a plea went out to our volunteers for help ... ***and they came up trumps!***

The volunteers came from Over, Moat Farm, Oxenhall, Newent Station, Yarkhill, Council of Management, as well as friends and family from the staff of Malswick House and The Wharf House.

A wide range of skills were put to good use: carpentry, painting, bricklaying, curtain making, fence erecting and gardening to name but some.

## Outside

At the front of the pub the iron entrance railings have had a fresh coat of paint, the earth bund by the roadside has been reshaped and seeded.

In the beer garden the tables, seats, fencing and pergola have all been treated with preservatives. The whole area was tidied and weeded.

## New Beer Garden

At the back of the property we have been preparing an extension to the beer garden next to the old railway embankment. This embankment was built over the line of the Canal when it closed in 1881.

Left: Peter secures the sleepers for the retaining wall.

Right: The manhole is repaired and covered.

Carolyn paints the railings.



Anne-Sophie paints the pergola.



Jane treats the tables and seating.



Sam and Archie repair the step.

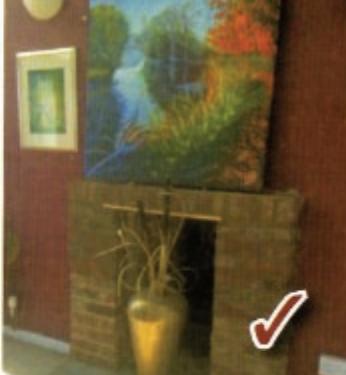


Andy attaches screening to the fence in the beer garden.





Robert working on the fireplace in the conservatory.



Both fireplaces ready for oak mantel shelves.



Maggie Jones

Tasks here included a low retaining wall made of railway sleepers, a new drain cover and brick surround, a chestnut paling fence along the edge of the canal line, and a bamboo and willow screen along another side. The area is laid with grass seed and will be left for a few weeks to grow before it opens to the public for the summer.

### Inside

Inside the pub a new fireplace has been created in the dining room. It extends through the wall to the conservatory, so that both areas will benefit from a log fire in the winter months.

Curtains poles and curtains have been hung. A decorative information blackboard has been secured above the bar and flooring behind the bar has been repaired.



Gordon makes good the hole through the wall.

It was altogether a great effort by all those who joined us. It was good to see volunteers from various sites and teams bringing their skills to help with this make-over. A big thank you to all who helped and thank you to the staff for plying us with soft drinks and sandwiches each day.

» MJ



The Oxenhall team put in the fence posts for the chestnut paling.



Chestnut paling fence erected along the Canal line.

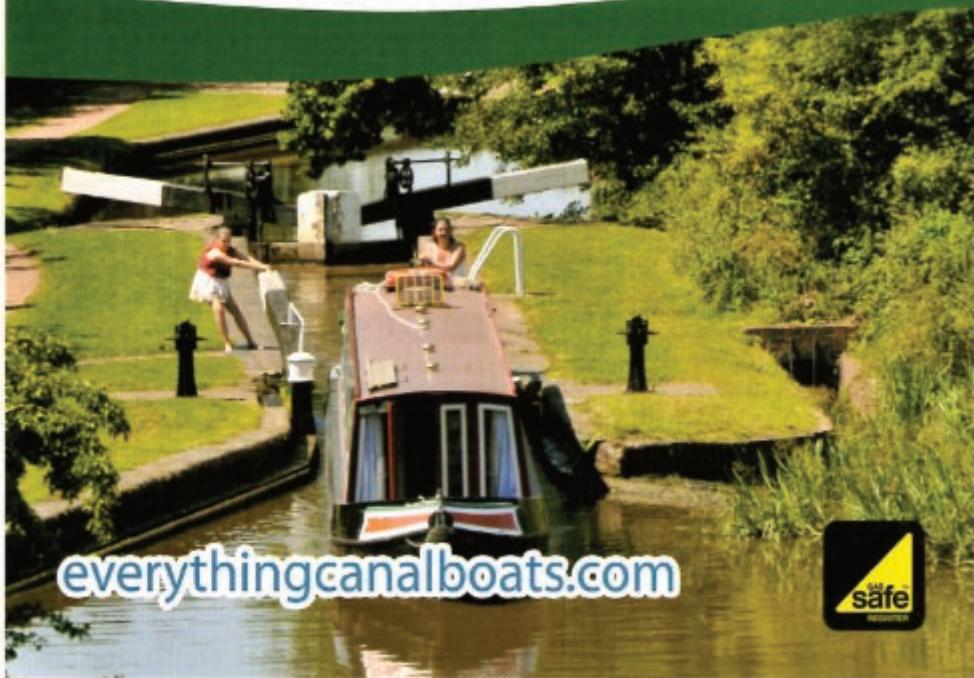


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# *It can happen to us all...*

by Carolyn Pascall



**... but we don't know when.** To coin a well-used phrase, no matter who we are, the one thing we can be certain of in our lives is - our death. That is a sobering thought, and itself can be depressing if you dwell on it for too long and in a pessimistic frame of mind. For me, having reluctantly grown accustomed only recently to being 'middle-aged', I now accept that there is not a lot I can do about the situation and no turning back: it is a fact.

So I might as well enjoy myself and try to improve the world around me, by studying more about subjects which interest me greatly, especially environmentally and culturally, and by being involved in chosen activities to the best of my ability in order to increase my contentment in contributing positively. With any luck, I shall be so busy I won't notice some threatening threshold advancing on the

horizon labelled 'old-age' and it will seamlessly pass me by as I increasingly mature. But in 'middle-age' it is wise to pay some attention to how I might be in 'old-age' and prepare for that, where I can. What if I never reach old-age because I die before then? When is "then" anyway?

And why should we be sad about the fact

A photograph of a traditional English pub named 'THE OAK INN'. The building is a two-story structure with a tiled roof, white walls, and a prominent chimney. The entrance features a porch with a wooden door and a sign above it. Flower boxes hang from the eaves. The pub is set in a rural or semi-rural area with trees and a clear sky in the background.

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The AA logo, which consists of the letters 'AA' in a stylized font inside a square, with four stars underneath it.

The Wharfinger

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that we are not on this planet for ever? It is surely for the younger generation to become involved together with and after me, enticed and stimulated to get involved for the very reason I first joined H&G Canal Trust. This is that it is enormously invigorating to be involved in this inspiring project to restore a former waterway to full navigation, which includes bringing other huge economic and environmental benefits, such as much-needed ground water management, to the great cathedral cities of Hereford and Gloucester and all 34 miles of canal route through stunning countryside between them. I am confident the full restoration of a sustainable H&G Canal will happen. It would be an absolute delight but a big surprise if I live long enough to see it. I live in hope.

So what more can I do, in the meantime, to ensure that those coming along after me have an increased chance of enjoying some stretches of Canal in the spectacularly beautiful countryside of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire? One way is by setting up a Legacy to pass money on my death from my relatively meagre 'estate' to H&G CT, while also leaving some for my children and, maybe in time, grandchildren of course. By such action I will help directly the next generation to build on the foundations made since this great Society and then Trust were formed (in 1983 and 1992 respectively). Past legacies have already made vitally important contributions. For example, H&G CT was only able to acquire the Llanthony site through a generous legacy, and in addition to the cottages which provide valuable rental income we also own the lock and surrounding land and, with enormous potential, the rights for the Llanthony hydro and flood-relief development.

This is an exciting period in the history of the H&G Canal and the next decade will be crucial in our progress to multiply the

length of Canal already in water, by two- or three-fold, dependent upon money being available for land acquisition. Please consider being a fundamental part of that, wherever you might be "then", and set up a legacy to H&G CT as soon as possible. And please don't get depressed about doing it: it is a profoundly positive thing for you to do for the next generation's benefit and for all those grandchildren's children. And, of course, continue to enjoy your life while you may! Thank you.

**A Legacy Leaflet** can be posted to you by emailing or calling me:  
**cdpascall@aol.com or 07947 108726.**

» CP

## HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

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### *Leaving a gift in your Will.*



### LEGACY GUIDE

by Carolyn Pascall

**Three Choirs Festival** is in Gloucester this July, and includes a conducted walk from Gloucester Lock to Llanthony and across Alney Island nature reserve to **The Wharf House** where H&G CT Vice-Chairman John Hammond will give a talk on H&G CT and the Canal. Both the walk and the talk, on **Monday 25 July**, are likely to sell out.

Ticket revenue will be shared with Three Choirs Festival which is publicising the event, managing ticket bookings and providing administrative support. It is expected that, as well as promoting the Canal and H&G CT, **The Wharf House** will benefit from some extra custom.

**Three Choirs Festival's** booking brochure entry for this event is below. For those interested, please contact the box office on **01452 768928** or see [www.3choirs.org/event/the-hereford-and-gloucester-canal-past-present-and-future](http://www.3choirs.org/event/the-hereford-and-gloucester-canal-past-present-and-future).

### The Hereford & Gloucester Canal

*Past, Present and Future*

**Monday 25 July**

**2.30 pm Walk** from Gloucester Lock, GL1 2LE to The Wharf House, Over

**5 pm Talk** at The Wharf House, speaker John Hammond, The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust

**£6** Walk only, **£10** Talk only, **£14** Walk & Talk

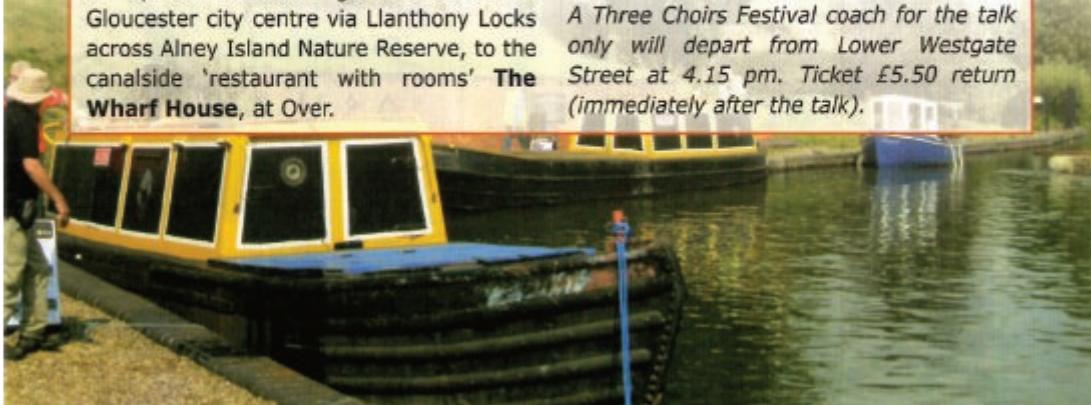
The Hereford and Gloucester Canal follows a course for 34 miles through the glorious countryside of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. The afternoon begins with an optional two-mile guided walk from Gloucester city centre via Llanthony Locks across Alney Island Nature Reserve, to the canalside 'restaurant with rooms' **The Wharf House**, at Over.

It continues with an illustrated talk by John Hammond, vice-chairman of H&G Canal Trust, who will take a look at the history of the canal and explain how the H&G CT is progressing with its aim to restore the entire route and make it navigable once more.

Those not going on the walk should arrive at The Wharf House any time after 3 pm if they would like to explore the restored canal and heritage boats.

A wide range of refreshments may be purchased on arrival. Those who wish to stay on for a post-event dinner may book tables by contacting **The Wharf House** directly 01452 332900.

*A Three Choirs Festival coach for the talk only will depart from Lower Westgate Street at 4.15 pm. Ticket £5.50 return (immediately after the talk).*





## Canal Walks

The H&G CT Canal Walk leaflets are proving popular with members and supporters who would like an interesting guided walk that includes part of the route of our Canal.

CANAL WALK NO. 1 **STAPLOW**

CANAL WALK NO. 2

**WITHINGTON**

30p  
each

CANAL WALK NO. 3 **DYMOCK**

CANAL WALK NO. 4 **LLANTHONY**

CANAL WALK NO. 5 **OXENHALL**

The leaflets are available from **The Wharf House** or by post from Nigel Jefferies (address inside back cover). Please send your name, address and a loose second class stamp for each leaflet plus another loose stamp for return postage.



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# 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!**

21 June

**Keeping sane with stained glass**

– Ralph Barber

An occasional change from canal-related topics, another past Chairman gives us an insight into his hobby.



19 July – 7.30 start

**Annual General Meeting**

**This meeting will be held**

**at Malswick House**

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



16 August

**Informal Natter and a Noggin**



20 September

**Somerset Levels** and other news from the West

Country. Followed by the **Grand Holiday Draw**

– Ray Alexandra



18 October

**Idle Women –**

the working boatswomen during World War 2

– Vince Williams

We welcome back Vince who visited us a number of years ago. Do come to hear this presentation.



FORMAL NOTICE  
THE HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST  
**2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
will be held on **Tuesday 19 July 2016 at 7.30pm**

at **Malswick House**, Newent GL18 1HE

*Members and friends are welcome.*

A pre-AGM supper, bookable in advance on **01531 822634**, is available from 5.30pm at Malswick House.



## A G E N D A

Copies of the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet 2015-16 will be available at the AGM. A pdf of the complete accounts can be emailed to you on request to the Treasurer.

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of previous AGM minutes, copies of which will be available at the meeting
4. Chairman's remarks
5. To receive and approve the report of the Trustees and unaudited financial statements for the year ending 29 February 2016

6. To approve the independent examiner of H&G CT accounts
7. To elect those council members retiring by rotation who offer themselves for re-election: John Hammond, Maggie Jones, Carolyn Pascall
8. To elect nominations of potential new council members
9. Close of formal business, and short break
10. Presentations and open discussion forum

Prior notice of questions, to the Chairman, should ensure a comprehensive response and would be greatly appreciated.

**Items 7 and 8:** The H&G Canal Trust Memorandum and Articles of Association allows up to 18 Trustees to be appointed. One third of the Trustees are required to stand down annually in rotation, but can apply for re-election.

Potential new Trustees are elected at the AGM or co-opted onto the council of management for a minimum of six months before they become a Trustee.

Nomination forms, obtainable from the Company Secretary, are required to be completed and returned up to seven days before the AGM.

When new Trustees are appointed they are given an induction to the work of the Trust and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, which includes information about the role of Trustees and charity law.

A member may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead who must be someone entitled to vote at the meeting. Proxy forms are available from the Company Secretary and must be completed and returned to her at least 48 hours prior to the start of the AGM.

# Annual Report for the year ending 29 February 2016

This is the twenty-fourth Annual Report of **Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust Limited**, a non-profit distributing company no. 2704407, formed in April 1992, and a registered charity no. 1010721.

It replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society 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. Registered office for both companies: The Wharf House, Horseshoe Drive, Over, Gloucester GL2 8DB.

The Council of Management, acting as Trustees of the charity, is aware of the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees have regard to this guidance and consider the activities of the charity have been carried out demonstrably for the public benefit and this applies also to their plans for future action. The charitable objects are defined as rebuilding a sustainable canal between Hereford & Gloucester.

## Council of Management of H&G Canal Trust: year to 29 February 2016

Liz Connors (until 17 August 2015, Treasurer until 31 July 2015, Company Secretary until 17 August 2015), John Hammond (Vice-Chairman, Treasurer from 1 August 2015), Nigel Jefferies, Caroline Jones (until 28 January 2016), Maggie Jones, Wilfred Jones, Janet Moul (Chairman), Carolyn Pascall (Company Secretary from 18 August 2015), Cliff Penny, David Penny (Commercial & Technical Director), *John Pritchard\**

## Board of <sup>The</sup> Wharf House Company Limited: year to 29 February 2016

Liz Connors (Company Secretary until 17 August 2015), John Hammond (Chairman), *Janet Moul\**, Carolyn Pascall (Company Secretary from 18 August 2015), David Penny (Commercial Director)

\*not a director of the relevant body

The Council of Management continues to monitor how H&G CT operates to ensure it is structured in the best way and has the appropriate controls and processes to fulfil its objectives for the benefit of the whole community. H&G CT's Legal & Project Development Team continues to work on land acquisition, as well as focusing on acquiring grant aid and other funding, and on building partnerships with external bodies which can both support restoration and provide an income for the future as stated in the charitable objects. This is in line with our long-stated objective of ensuring we establish income streams wherever possible, to maintain restored sections of the Canal and, in the long-term, the H&G Canal as a whole.

The Council of Management is supported by site restoration groups and committees responsible for finance, sales and The Wharf House Co Ltd.

Three major projects were completed in the year under review:

- At **Dymock**, there is a new Canal basin in the village centre and much-needed community benefits of additional parking, a play area, a new footpath, a greatly improved public environment and twenty new houses to accommodate an increased population essential to protect the village school, the

community-owned pub and other village facilities. One of the houses is H&G CT-owned, as part of the Dymock Partnership Project, and is rented out. H&G CT volunteers planted 500 trees around the Canal Basin, also grass with native wildflower mix and wild daffodil bulbs rescued before work started. The Dymock Partnership Project won an International Green Apple Award for Built Environment and Architectural Heritage 2016. 33 volunteer days with a value of £2,250.

- At **Malswick House**, H&G CT volunteers helped complete a major refurbishment and environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient upgrade of equipment. Accessibility was improved and the marquee was spruced up for hire. 220 volunteer days with a value of £15,400.
- One of H&G CT's cottages at **Llanthony** underwent a major refurbishment and decoration throughout by H&G CT volunteers over more than a year, including fitting a new kitchen and bathroom and reglazing the sun lounge. Cast iron fireplaces were restored to former glory and special attention was given to upgrading the insulation, with storage heaters provided. The access from Hemmingsdale Road was improved, new dedicated parking provided and a security fence erected. A few external improvements will be completed in summer 2016, but the cottage is ready for rental. 307 volunteer days with a value of £23,950.

The **Wharf House**, run by The Wharf House Co Ltd the wholly-owned subsidiary of H&G CT, continued to trade successfully and achieved an AA Rosette for the sixth year running. New more energy-efficient equipment was installed. The Wharf House continues to fund all H&G CT planning, legal and project development

costs, and provides accommodation and office facilities for H&G CT's Legal & Project Development Team at The Wharf House. The L&PDT continued negotiations with numerous bodies including Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Forest of Dean Councils, Dymock Parish Council, other agencies and landowners. Terms for the Holmer development in Hereford were also agreed. 270 volunteer days with a value of £70,500.

#### Charitable activities and achievements

- The 225 Anniversary Campaign was launched at Eastnor Castle in July, kindly hosted by James and Lucy Hervey-Bathurst and supported by the Lord Lieutenants of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire and the Chief Executive of Canal & River Trust. 67 volunteer days with a value of £20,50.
- At **Aylestone Weir**, volunteers have worked on the landscaping, towpath surfacing and fencing. 14 volunteer days with a value of £800.
- At **Kymmin**, major clearance, excavation and profiling of the Canal bed and towpath were completed, creating 650 yards in water. Thanks go to John Burton, Moat Contracting, for his help and to Roberts Limbrick Architects of Gloucester who produced a CAD canal profile drawing. 52 volunteer days with a value of £4,000.
- At **Yarkhill**, the site has been maintained in good order to provide regular visitors with a pleasant walk. 211 volunteer days with a value of £11,000.
- At **Oxenhall/Newent**, major clearance of the Station and Willows sites was done, a permissive path through woodland created and a successful open day held. Seven WRGforestry volunteers completed aerial work on the Corsican

pines. 447 volunteer days with a value of £28,750.

- **Travellers' Rest** was refurbished extensively, re-equipped with energy-efficient fittings and reopened as **Malswick House** under overall management of TWH Co Ltd. 220 volunteer days with a value of £15,400.
- At **Moat Farm**, a further 300m of Canal was restored and in water. 69 volunteer days with a value of £6,050.
- At **Over and Vineyard Hill**, the towpath was resurfaced and the main structure of the retaining wall and bicycle shelter was started. The planning application for Mill Barn was submitted and an appeal launched, and old lock gates were dismantled for later use as roof trusses. Maintenance on Mr Maysey and refurbishment of Renton were completed. 765 volunteer days with a value of £44,250.

**Membership:** We are pleased to report that income from membership increased and we continue to receive donations from members in addition to their subscriptions. Membership has increased a little and at the year-end was 1355. We thank members for their generosity and those who donated to the **Land Fund, 225 Anniversary Appeal and Mill Barn Appeal.** 32 volunteer days with a value of £1,600.

Our restoration sites generated £5,118 through selling obsolete items and logs and raising funds through Open Days, and the Canal Festival at Over raised £2,619. 119 volunteer days with a value of £7,950. H&G Sales and Promotion teams visited shows in both counties and further afield at Crick and Braunston to maintain H&G Canal Trust's national profile, also raising £4,347. 89 volunteer days with a value of £4,450.

**The Wharfinger**, delivered by hand where possible, continues to receive compliments for its content and presentation. 190 volunteer days with a value of £29,900.

**The Grand Holiday Draw** made just under £3,000, a very welcome contribution to funds.

The **Social Evenings** continue once a month and attendance is usually good. 16 volunteer days with a value of £1,200

The volunteer days for the review period have increased by 2.4% to 3,874 days with an equivalent value of £498,950. This balance includes volunteer time involved in the wide spectrum of activities supporting and promoting H&G CT, ranging from design of promotional materials and the website, membership, finance and many areas of administration.

**Sustainability:** 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** and energy efficiency measures at both **The Wharf House** and **Malswick House** continue to reduce our energy demands from the national grid and to generate income for H&G CT. All restoration sites recycle materials wherever possible. **L&PDT** secured a £20,000 grant towards designing a small hydro scheme on the River Leadon which, combined with our extensive tree planting, helps bring H&G CT towards being carbon neutral.

The Council of Management thanks all volunteers for their effort and hard work to progress the development of the Canal and all those who have worked at **The Wharf House, Malswick House**, and on our promotional display and sales stands and to those who have assisted H&G CT in many other ways during the year.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete below and return this form to:

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

Name

Address

Post Code:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

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

*Details of membership rates can be found on the inside back cover.*

New member

Renewal

Gift

Please help us to keep our subscriptions low and to accelerate our restoration progress by making a donation.

Subscription £

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 DONT pay tax or DONT want us to do this tick this box

Date: / /

## BANKER'S ORDER

To: (Name and Address of Bank)

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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# RESTORATION UPDATE

News of our work on the Hereford & Gloucester Canal

Want to get involved at any of our restoration sites? – You will be most welcome – *all the contact details are on page 31.*

## Dymock

David Penny

Dymock Pool is filling up with water, giving a good picture of what the area will look like when the banks have greened up and the hundreds of trees we have planted burst into leaf and blossom.

The H&G CT house now has a tenant, providing an income stream to H&G CT for the maintenance of the area.

» DP



Top right: the new house owned by H&G CT.  
Main photo: Dymock Pool is filling up with water.

Maggie Jones

## Oxenhall and Newent Station

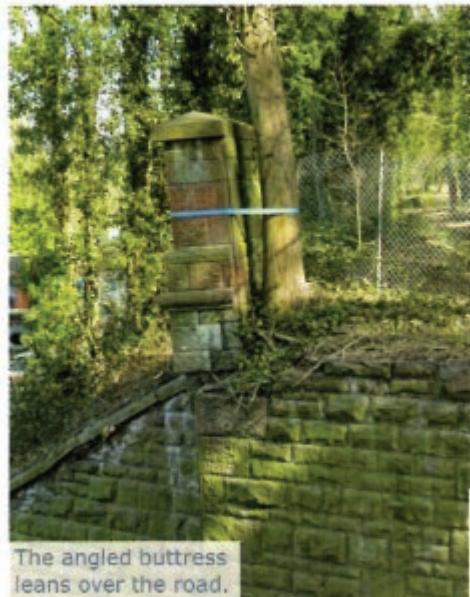
Brian Fox and Maggie Jones

The nesting season has started so we have six months without work on trees. The careful management of woodland which is our responsibility is a complex task we face each autumn and winter.

We must balance our – and the public's – enjoyment of the natural environment with issues of safety, of consideration for

our neighbours, and of the variety of species and the mix of large and small trees with open spaces. Unfortunately, woodland left alone soon becomes impassable scrub and wilderness, and trees drop branches and fall. We take our conservation responsibilities seriously, but recognise tree management can be controversial and we are unlikely to please everyone all the time.

Difficult tree jobs are passed on to the WRGies to deal with and they returned in February to complete the work reported in the last edition. This involved felling one large alder adjacent to an electricity line which they achieved with no problems, and a massive willow next to the aqueduct where an expert had to climb the tree and fell branches one by one. After a bit of tidying up along the old railway line by the fire station, all that was left was one tree growing immediately on top of the abutment for the old railway bridge on the Dymock Road, a structure owned by, and the responsibility of, the Council. This had been largely hidden by masses of ivy growing all over it but Council workmen had cleared it recently and discovered to their alarm that the roots of the tree had undermined one of the corner buttresses of the abutment leaving it balanced at an alarming angle with a potential to fall into the road. A 'secure' tie has been put around the tree and the buttress but half of the road has now been cordoned off and we are awaiting the Council to come and fell the tree and make the stonework safe.



Brian Fox



The resurfaced track to the Lock Cottage.

### Track Resurfaced

I can also report that the track to Oxenhall Lock Cottage has been resurfaced with 35 tons of fine stone. The job was done by John Burton of Moat Contracting as it would have been more than we could tackle just working on Tuesdays and we didn't have enough suitable stone anyway. Moat Contracting, who have done work for us before, did a good job.

### Tractor still going strong

I have mentioned our tractor many times before, and where would we be without it? At 42 years old and still going strong, at least it was until last month ... when one of the fuel injectors failed and it finished up being taken on a trailer to Mr Prout's garage in Dymock. He managed to find all the spares needed and after giving it a good service and clean it was back with us as good as new and with a substantial discount on the bill to show his support for H&G CT, for which we are extremely grateful.

### Hand Mower Required

Grass cutting beckons and the battery has been taken off the ride-on mower to recharge. Fingers crossed, the mower will still be able to keep pace with our ever

increasing area to keep under control. We also have a scythe mower which should take care of the brambles and nettles threatening to retake the ground we cleared in The Willows area, but slopes and awkward corners are out for both of these machines so if anyone has a spare hand mower doing nothing then we could make good use of it.

## The Railway Platforms

It may look as if the regular volunteers have been skiving but there is plenty to do without looking too far. The station area is the focus of our attention now and also of the Saturday working parties. The tops of both platforms are still in the process of being cleared and the Tuesday gang has been concentrating on the area around the old ticket office and waiting room. By reference to old maps we were able to establish roughly where the building was and our digging has now revealed the remains of the front wall and a considerable portion of the blue brick platform in front - it now makes a convenient patio for us to sit and enjoy our breaks. A large mound of soil and rubble has been removed with the assistance of our friends from the neighbouring skip yard and this has now opened up space to park our mobile site hut which had been obstructing the entrance for the last few months. » **BF**

## The Saturday Roving Team

Brian mentions the Saturday team's involvement in clearing the tops of the platforms. We have now been joined by a railway enthusiast, Phil Jackson, who appreciates that the Canal was there first and is therefore helping us with our exploratory work. He is enjoying some archaeological digging in the arch in one platform from where the points and signals were operated. » **MJ**

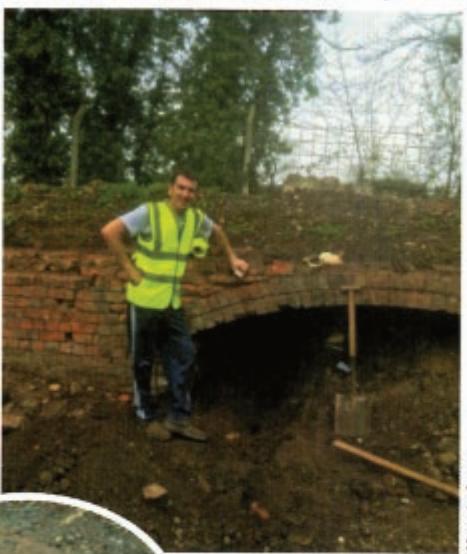


The pavers of the former railway platforms are revealed.



The site has been moved to a better position.

Brian Fox



Maggie Jones



Phil digs under the platforms from where the old points and signals were operated.

Left: some of the rusty items that he discovered.



Martyn Tilford

## Moat Farm

Martyn Tilford

As Spring approached we hoped for some dry weather so that ground conditions would improve and excavator/dumper use could resume.

Some fine weather in March and early April provided an opportunity and the machinery was used to good effect to remove the remains of a dam located 200 metres from the south end of the site. This dam was originally created to allow farm vehicles to cross the cut and most of it was removed when we profiled the channel here last year.

The machinery then headed to the north end of the site to recommence the preparation of the towpath and channel on the approach to the site of Double Lock. After a couple of successful days we were within 15 metres of the lock site, having relocated approximately 250 tonnes of material. As mentioned in an earlier edition of the Wharfinger, the volume of spoil requiring removal increases the further north we go as the railway, on a rising gradient, climbed above the canal. Once this preparatory work is complete the full profiling of the channel can commence.



Top: a view south from the site hut on a pleasant April morning.

Above: Removing the remains of the dam near the 200 metre marker.



At the north end of the site "Dingo" waits patiently for the action to start.

Whenever the excavator is in use we are normally visited by a local farm dog "Dingo". She will sit patiently by the excavator waiting for the engine to start and then spends the day barking at the bucket and snapping at the tracks. We have been unsuccessful in getting her to wear a hard-hat or hi-viz jacket!

It's always a pleasure to be at Moat Farm as spring develops. Unlike some garden daffodils, which were flowering in January, our native daffodils waited until the 'correct' time of year and started to show their colours in late March. The cowslips and bluebells soon followed. The winter gales had brought down a fair amount of branches and dead wood from the larger trees around the site so this was gathered and deposited on the various rotting log piles. The resident ducks and moorhens

bussed themselves preparing for nesting and we are looking at ways to ensure there are safe sites for them.

» **MT**



"Dingo" in full song barking at the excavator bucket above her as Alan reverses the dumper for another load.

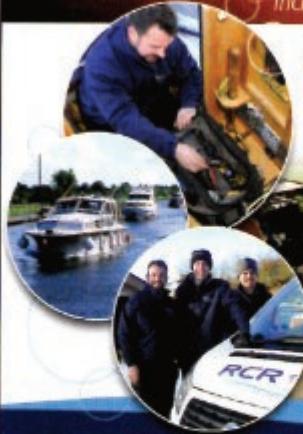


Martyn Tillord

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Ivor directs the concrete pour.



A land drain had been constructed behind the wall.

## Over Basin & Vineyard Hill Ted Beagles

Our work in winter and early spring has again been dominated by routine site maintenance. This year in particular the grass seems to have continued to grow throughout. In other areas we have been cutting back scrub and tidying up The Wharf House gardens. We also finally got rid of the log pile on the large grassy area near the track down to the flood plain and reseeded it to restore the grass.

The lower area of the site has been greatly enhanced by the arrival of a marvellous concrete obelisk which was surplus to requirements at the Llanthony site (see page 31). Thank you Paul.

### Great Wall

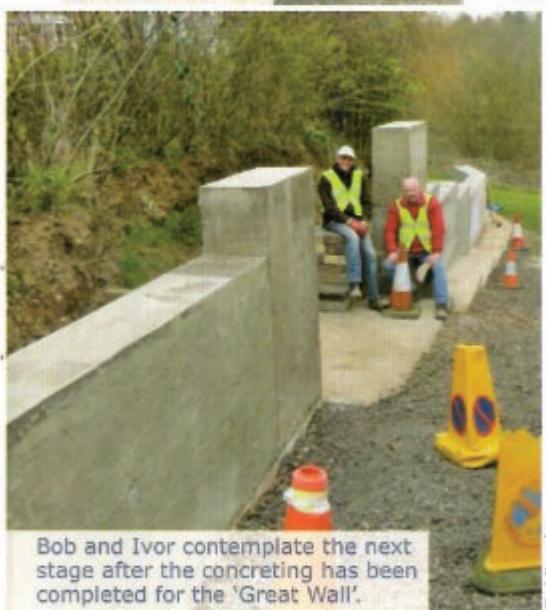
We have now completed all of the reinforced concrete sections of the great wall. Unfortunately the delivery lorry chute could not place the concrete directly into the higher sections of shuttering and it was necessary to do this by hand. Sections of land drain have been placed along the bottom of the vertical section to direct the flow of water behind the wall to the drainage holes.

The next phase is to build the block-work walls for the cycle cave section before finally backfilling the void behind the wall.

At the same time we shall commence the brickwork cladding for the front and top of the wall, which will completely hide all the bare concrete.

### Vineyard Hill

The landslip along the Vineyard Hill section seems to have stabilised in recent months. The routine running of the heritage fleet boats along the full length of the Canal has become much more reliable and the landslip area is now passable without any difficulty.



Bob and Ivor contemplate the next stage after the concreting has been completed for the 'Great Wall'.



### Renton

The supporting woodwork for the front hold cover has been completed, and is now being partially dismantled to allow full painting of all surfaces before reassembly and sealing to the hull. In the meantime a temporary cover is being used to keep out the rain. A permanent electric bilge pump has now been fitted to the hold which greatly assists in keeping the inside dry.

### Mike's Osiers

Mike tells me that it has been a good year for the osiers, and he has a bumper crop of assorted coloured whips for sale. Contact details can be supplied by The Wharf House for anyone wishing to purchase some at very reasonable prices.

Mike harvesting the osier whips.



The frame for Renton's front hold cover.

Ted Beagles

### Return of the Swans

The pair of swans is back with us and putting on a grand display in the water, rolling completely over to wash themselves. They seem to be much more relaxed this year and are not at all afraid to approach people. Resident Tony Peters has even gone to the extent of purchasing a large bag of swan food, and they are going into his garden to be fed from his hand. Sooner him than me!

At the time of writing, we have not seen any signs of their building a nest. » **TB**

Resident Tony Peters feeds the swans by hand.



Over recent months access to the car parking area through the Llanthony Industrial Estate has become increasingly difficult. As a result it has impeded our ability to let the cottages to prospective tenants.

It was decided to change the access to the site via Hemmingsdale Road, crossing land already owned by H&G CT.

The site was cleared by volunteers and during February John Burton of Moat Contracting cut the new access to the existing car parking area. Recycled hard core was used as a base and road planings, sourced from Over, were added as a top dressing. A 10ft-wide metal gate and replacement fencing were erected at the new entrance.

In addition a 50 metre length of steel palisade fencing was installed to provide additional security to the site. The improvements will mean that access to the car parking area will be restricted to tenants and volunteers.

### Removal of the Obelisk

It has been called many things – a monument, an obelisk, even a concrete thingy. It is a large concrete structure, which at one time was almost certainly one of a pair. They would have been sited at a gateway or large entrance to provide a base for signage.

We found the structure at Llanthony in 2008 buried amongst brambles and it was considered it could be used at one of H&G CT's sites for signage to promote the Canal. As we planned to fence off the land adjoining the Industrial Estate, it was decided to move the obelisk to Over where it can be stored, pending relocation to a future selected site.



Installing final section of palisade fencing.



The completed palisade fencing.



John compacting the base material.



The new gateway entrance to site.

Ted Beagles, Paul Henshaw and Alan McBride

Keith Rhodes Machinery Installations Ltd had the appropriate equipment to lift it onto a flatbed truck and move it the short distance to Over. Chris Palmer, Operations Manager, estimated that the structure weighed around 4.5 tons. On its arrival at Over, Ted commented that he was "absolutely thrilled to bits" to add it to his collection of useful building materials!

» PH

### Would you like to be involved?

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

#### **Hereford Roving Team**

John Pritchard on 01432 272972  
[johnpritchard32@btinternet.com](mailto:johnpritchard32@btinternet.com)

#### **Aylestone and Kymin**

Wilf Jones on 01452 413 888  
[wilfredjones506@gmail.com](mailto:wilfredjones506@gmail.com)

#### **Yarkhill**

Chris High on 01568 615 575  
[chris@chrishigh.plus.com](mailto:chris@chrishigh.plus.com)

#### **Oxenhall**

Brian Fox on 01432 358 628  
[braendfox74@gmail.com](mailto:braendfox74@gmail.com)

#### **Newent Station – Saturdays**

Wilf Jones on 01452 413 888  
[wilfredjones506@gmail.com](mailto:wilfredjones506@gmail.com)

#### **Moat Farm**

Martyn Tilford on 01452 790 358  
[martyn@tilford.free-online.co.uk](mailto:martyn@tilford.free-online.co.uk)

#### **Over Basin/Vineyard Hill**

Ted Beagles on 01452 522 648  
[tedbeagles@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tedbeagles@blueyonder.co.uk)

#### **Llanthony**

Paul Henshaw on 01684 293 930  
[paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **Saturday Roving Team**

Maggie Jones on 01452 618 010  
[maggiejones@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:maggiejones@blueyonder.co.uk)



The loading of obelisk at Llanthony.

### News from other sites

#### **Aylestone Park** by John Pritchard

The Yarkhill team had an away day at Aylestone Park on 21 April. We cleared the bank on the towpath side, and then tackled the more challenging bank on the offside for a length of about 75m. The access road in the park has been resurfaced and is hugely improved. The park has become an unofficial 'Park and Walk' site thanks to the increased parking charges in Hereford city. The next challenge is to manage the weed in the Canal, which is growing rapidly now and needs to be reduced to avoid choking the Canal. If you would like to help us tackle this, or know anyone with particular expertise in this area, please ask them to contact me at [johnpritchard32@btinternet.com](mailto:johnpritchard32@btinternet.com).

» JP

#### **Kymin**

A small team is due to go into the Kymin stretch shortly, to clear a fallen tree and log the trunk and larger branches, and make safe one or two dangerous trees.

#### **Yarkhill**

Occasional maintenance of the vegetation is all that has been necessary to keep the site tidy.

Norman Mitchell

Easter has passed and the Museum refurbishment is well on the way.

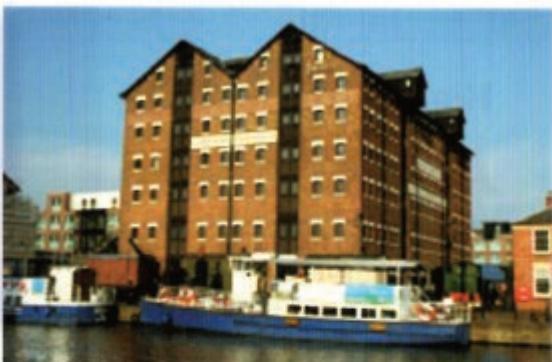
Floors are repaired now and intumescent coatings are being applied. The new designs will be made public shortly and previews make it look a most interesting space to house the displays and explain the history of the rivers and canals of this area. The launch Bluebird has been moved and will shortly be leaving the Museum, probably back to the folks who kindly loaned her to us. The central lock has been removed leaving just the invert at its base, and this creates a fantastic view from front to back on the ground floor; this space will allow a representation of a Severn Trow to be constructed from rope extending up into the first floor space. Lit up it will be a major feature in direct line with the entrance to welcome our visitors.

I mentioned in the last Wharfinger that conservation plans were due and sure enough work has commenced on the Dredger; the Crane will follow shortly. We have the timber for the turntable and just need the time to get it fitted.

Opening is still planned for late July, one week after the Food Festival event occupying the car park. The opening should be a celebration for all, Friends, Volunteers, Staff and, of course, all you people who will want to see the brand new concept. We will let you know the arrangements nearer the date.

[www.friendsofgwm.co.uk](http://www.friendsofgwm.co.uk)

» NM



Gloucester Waterways Museum.



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Further details contact: **Martin Turner**  
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# AN ELUSIVE QUARRY

by Nigel Jefferies

The majority of buildings Stephen Ballard constructed along the line of the canal are built of brick. By the middle years of the nineteenth century, brick had become the ubiquitous building material.

Indicative of their use was that in 1784, in order to raise revenue to fight the war against revolutionary France, Pitt the Younger had imposed a tax on bricks. Bricks are inexpensive and easy to lay. Where suitable clay is available they can be made in the locality and can be made to requirements; Ballard used bull-nosed bricks for window sills. If they could not be made locally, they could easily be transported by barge along the Canal.

Several authors have commented on the aesthetic pleasure of bricks; Sitwell believes it arises from their warm colour and the neatness of their courses, while Darley has noted their soft, tomato tones. Many Italian villages and cities, for example Siena, exhibit the pleasing appearance of bricks.

Beside Withington Lock, on the minor road from Withington Church to the A465 to Bromyard, Ballard built the lock house from ashlar and I have often wondered why he did so and where the stone originated?

The lock house was similar to Lock Cottage at Oxenhall, consisting of a symmetrical facade of three bays. The



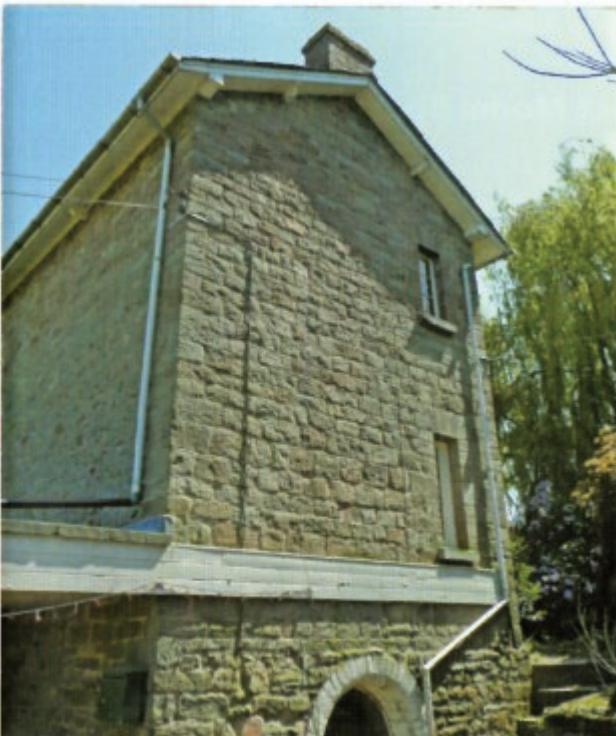
Withington Lock House.

middle bay had a door surmounted by a blind window on the first floor and the single bays on each side had a window at ground and first floor levels. The building stands on a cellar accessed from an arched door in the western gable end of the property. In common with Ballard's other buildings, on the first floor the ceiling is plastered to the underside of the ridge, which reveals the roof trusses, and the purlins have ogee shaping on their ends. At some stage alterations have been made; the central door has been blocked-up, an entrance porch with a flat roof built in front of the ground floor window of the right-hand bay and a large wing has been built on the east side. However, it is still possible to see the original part of the building.

The blind window above the door.



Nigel Jefferies



The western gable end of Withington Lock House showing the arched door of the cellar.

Researching the Withington Wharf Canal Walk leaflet has revealed the answer to my question, which lies approximately 400 metres along the road to the south towards Withington Church, at Stone House. This house, which was obviously built before the Canal, is also of ashlar, as are a number of other early buildings, including the church. It is my belief the owner of Stone House insisted Ballard built lock house from ashlar, due to its proximity to his property. In a Herefordshire Trade Directory of 1858 the owner is listed as Henry Apperley, but the Canal was completed to Withington in 1844. In the 1841 census Stone House is not actually named, but it appears that Henry's father William H Apperley, aged 61, was head of the household. Stone House is now a Grade II listed building.

I have been told the stone was obtained locally from a quarry in Duke Street,

although the quarry has been filled in. I visited Hereford Record Office to establish the exact location in Duke Street, which in the nineteenth century was called Duck Street, but despite examining maps and other documents, I have found no evidence. I also consulted the 1851 census which systematically records the vocation of the people listed, in the expectation that it would reveal a number of quarry men and stone masons; one mason, a journeyman mason, a mason's apprentice and a mason's labourer are recorded but no quarry men. The web site of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club lists the site of a number of quarries in Herefordshire, including those at Shucknall and Bartestree, but no quarry is recorded at Withington. However Marcia Hopkins a member of the Trust who lives in the village, drew my attention to the website of English Heritage and the Strategic Stone Study, which identifies three quarry sites in the village. Through another member of the Trust, I contacted retired geologist Dr Paul Olver, who has written the introductory chapter about the geology of Herefordshire in the recently published revised edition of the Buildings of England by Pevsner & Brooks. Following a site visit in early April 2013, he believes the site shown on the Strategic Stone Study (at SO563435), west of the church and south of Duke Street, to be the site of the quarry.

» NJ

#### Sources

British Architects and Craftsmen by Sacheverell Sitwell

John Soane - An Accidental Romantic by Gillian Darley

The Hereford & Gloucester Canal by David Bick

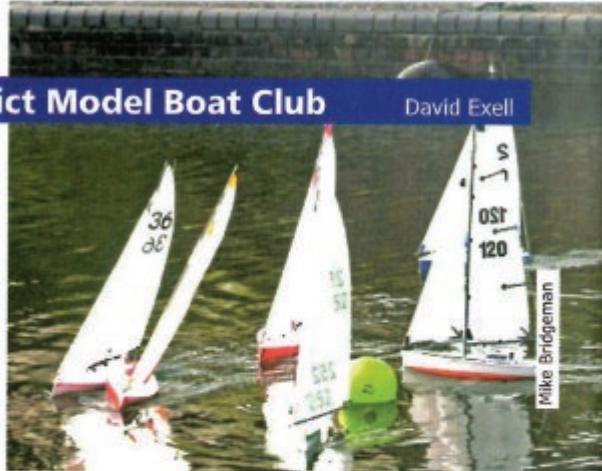
We have been lucky this winter as the weather has been mild and so far only once has ice prevented us from model boating at Over.

Micro Magic racing goes from strength to strength, and sometimes on a Friday the basin is a mass of sailing boats apparently sailing in all directions, but the racers seem to know what is going on. Now even on non-official race Fridays and on Wednesdays they arrange their own mini regattas. It is a very skilful activity, as the boats are quite light and need subtle handling; your scribe tried it and was basically quite hopeless – his yacht is now in a new owner's hands.

A group of us like to sail down the Canal to the winding hole at the ½ mile marker and back again. So far this has been fine, but with the mild weather I can see weed problems developing down there and as we do not have far bank access it will be difficult to cut, as we do now in the basin. In some ways your scribe is lucky in that the boat I usually use is a paddler and they do not usually have the same problems with weed as prop-driven boats.

### Some history in Ledbury

On page 98 of "Rescued from Obscurity" there is a picture of the old navvies' accommodation in Ledbury, and behind it is a portal frame building that I used to own. It is built right over a small arm of the Canal that allowed boats up to the old building, used as a warehouse before the Canal was extended. I mention this because when the Ledbury Farmer's (now Countrywide) garden centre was built the brick tops of the side cut where it joined the main canal were uncovered. With an



amazing lack of vision they were then covered in gravel. What a nice feature it would have made in the garden centre, which would have revealed to all another small remnant of the Canal.

### Steam on the Canal

There is a small, dedicated (some say daft) group of model boaters who like model steam driven boats. We persevere in the winter, when the cold air can sometimes freeze the gas tanks of our boats, and I am pleased to report that your scribe's latest steamboat successfully sailed on the Canal just before Easter. Steam of course was never seen on the Canal as horse power was all that was used (plus legs in the tunnels). Sadly I have never heard of anyone using a steam-powered pleasure boat on it either. (Editor's note: a steam-powered boat has featured at the Over Festival in August each year.)

» DE

### Gloucester & District Model Boat Club

sails at Over Basin on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoons (weather permitting). You should find somebody sailing between 1pm and 4pm. The Club members will only be too pleased to talk to you about their models and the Club. The members have models of all descriptions including amphibious craft.

Yachts are also very popular.  
**Chairman. Edward Tedaldi.**



The New Canal Speed Gun being tested at Over Basin, before coming into operation on 1st April 2016. No, they did not break the 4 MPH speed limit!

Johnny Snaps, CoDak

Hello all. All thoughts are on the forthcoming summer, and mine is how to work off all the chocolate after Easter.

The winter has been very kind to us with only ONE lost rowing day, and that was due to the Wheelyboat being away for the latest approved modifications, and the KataKanu is not strong enough to break the ice! Although we did chance our luck once, only to retreat after 25% of the Canal.

The swans have returned as have the ducks, The woodpecker can be heard drumming away in the surrounding trees, and even Chris BEE has been seen at a well-known German shop getting food for his hives. But did he know the cost of their honey?

This year we hope to increase the use of the Canal by inviting 8 to 18 year olds to have a taster session at rowing with the help of a Gloucester County Council "Youth Activities Grant", approved on 23 March. This will also help us upgrade some of our equipment like life jackets which are only guaranteed for two years.

Last season a little boy and his parents were being taken along the Canal in the Wheelyboat when we came in sight of the bulrushes; he shouted out, look mum, they grow sausages! Great observation.

Our next project is a hoist to lift the less mobile into the KataKanu. We have been granted £500 from Sainsburys' Community Fund (South Gate St) – thanks to Vickie and Sainsburys – and we also have a £50 donation from a private source. Thanks for believing in what we are trying to achieve.

If you're at a loss on a Tuesday, come and have a chat and a cuppa; we're on site from about 11.00 to 14.00. » **PB**

**Sailing4Disabled**  
meets every Tuesday at Over Canal

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## Outings 2016

by Janet Moult  
and Maggie Jones

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

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

We would like to attend more local events. In order to do so we need to know about them and have more volunteers to help – information please? **» JM/MJ**

*Not quite  
... the last page!*

The Sales & Promotion teams 2016 schedule is

May 28–30	Crick Boat Show, Northamptonshire
June 11	Ledbury Community Day
June 11–12	Hellens Garden Festival, Herefordshire
June 25–26	Historic Narrowboat Rally, Braunston, Northamptonshire
July 2	Dymock Remembered 2016
August 20–21	Over Festival, Over Canal Basin, Gloucester
Sept 10	Oxenhall and Newent Open Day
Nov 12	H&G CT Winter Bazaar, Ledbury

### Stamps

Following the appeal in the last edition of *The Wharfinger* Steve Bence reports that he has received several nice philatelic donations – our thanks to all concerned. Following some sales over recent weeks we've passed the £2,000 target and working towards £2,500!

Stamps can be taken to a Social Evening or other H&G CT event – or to **The Wharf House** or **Malswick House**. Or send them direct to: **H&G Stamps**, c/o Steve Bence, 35 Lime Road, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 1EQ. Please keep those stamps coming. **Thank you.** **» SB**



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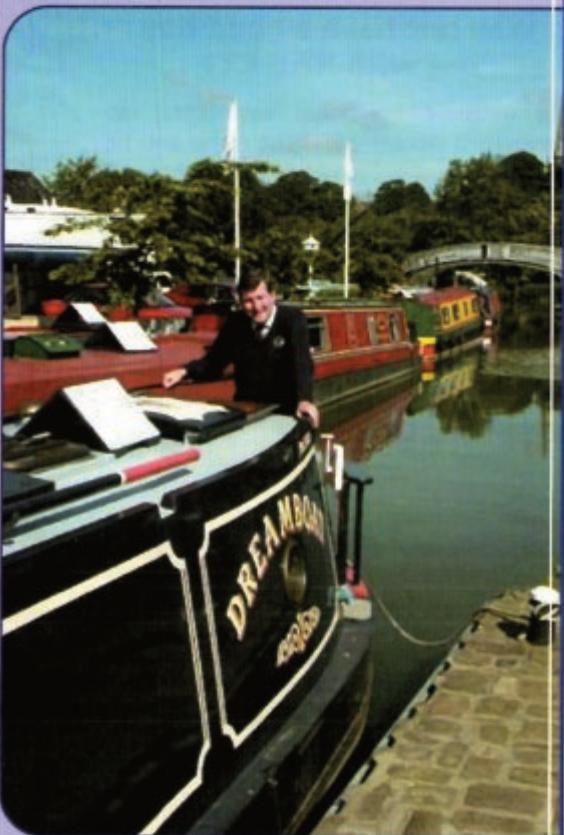
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## Want to help?

The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from gardeners to first aiders, brickies

to those willing to help with a shovel, pen or laptop. The H&G CT also welcomes offers of gifts of good quality used tools and machinery from those who no longer need or cannot use it.

## Contacts

Contact any of these names TODAY!

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**Janet Moulton**

(details in first column)

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lpdt@thewharthouse.co.uk

**"Who does what ..."**

is inside the front cover.

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## Hereford



Our objective is to rebuild the 34 mile Canal linking the centre of Hereford to Gloucester and its connection with the 2,500 mile inland waterway network. We have major restoration sites in each county, together extending to some 4 miles. The intention is to provide a financially sustainable independent Canal which does not require public money for its future operation and maintenance.

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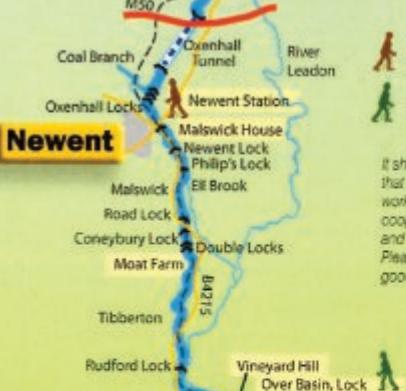
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Work started in 1792 reaching Ledbury from Gloucester by 1798. In 1827 Steven Ballard was appointed to oversee the Canal's completion, which reached Hereford in 1845; this was one of the last major canal routes completed in Britain. The Canal stretched from the River Severn at Gloucester, via Newent, Dymock and Ledbury to Hereford, using 22 locks and 3 tunnels. It was closed in 1881 to allow construction of the Ledbury-Gloucester railway which in turn closed in 1964.

## Dymock

Railway diverges from line of canal  
MSO



- = Canal Walk leaflet available
- = Restoration sites suitable for public access.

*It should not be assumed that Rights of Way exist. We work on the Canal with the cooperation of land owners and their neighbours. Please help us maintain good relations with them.*

*Thank you.*

## Gloucester

