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Autumn 2017

# The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

NEW

Canal at MALSWICK



133  
EDITION

REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER

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

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Part of the new  
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Alan McBride



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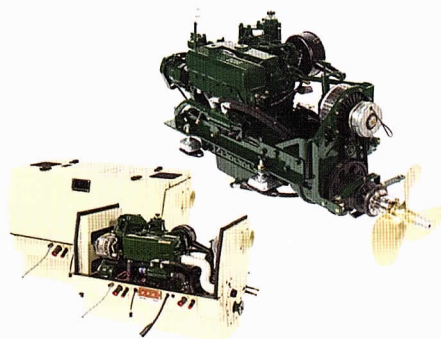
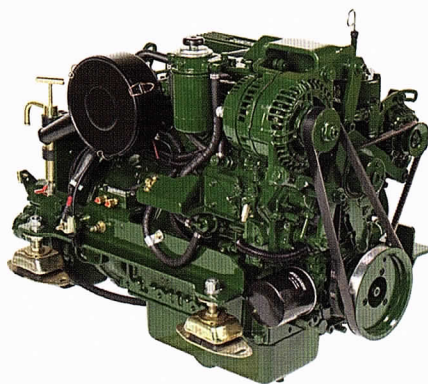


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## *The H&GCT has great support!*

Some of our regular readers will notice that this edition of The Wharfinger is a little late in coming out. We apologise for the delay but we hope you feel that the news we bring was worth a wait.

The delay has also meant that we are able to promote not only that we have a very significant new length to restore at Malswick, but also that work there has begun. (see pages 4-8)

You will see on pages 8-9 that another very successful Over Festival was held in August. The weather was on our side right up until the last hour on the Sunday and it was definitely one of our best events yet. We have a report from one of

our new volunteers, Ginny Birkett, as well as lots of the great photos of the event taken by Ginny and Louisa Jones.

This brings me on to another very positive aspect that has happened recently. A number of our long-term Members and Supporters, as well as new Members and Volunteers have stepped forward to give the H&GCT the help and support needed to help us step up a gear. We thank them all for working towards a new future. You will read within this edition of some of the ways they have helped. In particular we would like to thank Nigel Johnson, Vaughan Welch, Tim Parker, Ed Helps, Caroline Jones, Tony Sellwood and Paul Henshaw for all giving the H&GCT their time and expertise.

»» MJ

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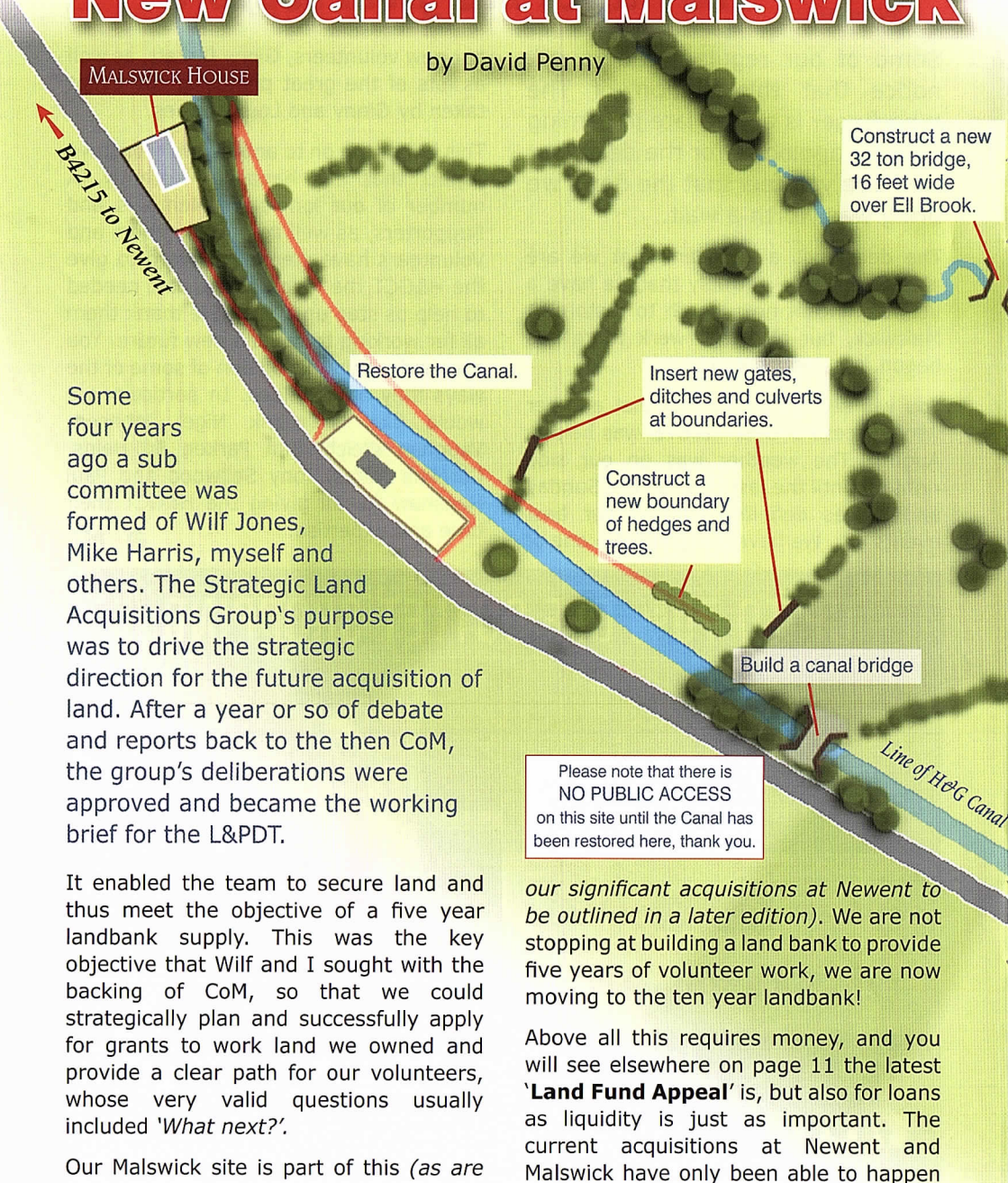
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# New Canal at Malswick

by David Penny



Some four years ago a sub committee was formed of Wilf Jones, Mike Harris, myself and others. The Strategic Land Acquisitions Group's purpose was to drive the strategic direction for the future acquisition of land. After a year or so of debate and reports back to the then CoM, the group's deliberations were approved and became the working brief for the L&PDT.

It enabled the team to secure land and thus meet the objective of a five year landbank supply. This was the key objective that Wilf and I sought with the backing of CoM, so that we could strategically plan and successfully apply for grants to work land we owned and provide a clear path for our volunteers, whose very valid questions usually included 'What next?'.

Our Malswick site is part of this (as are

our significant acquisitions at Newent to be outlined in a later edition). We are not stopping at building a land bank to provide five years of volunteer work, we are now moving to the ten year landbank!

Above all this requires money, and you will see elsewhere on page 11 the latest 'Land Fund Appeal' is, but also for loans as liquidity is just as important. The current acquisitions at Newent and Malswick have only been able to happen



due to the generous support of our members to the **Land Fund**, and an *anonymous donation some time ago of £100,000* helped to fund Malswick House. The relevance of this became very apparent when our very public purchase of the pub made several landowners view us very differently and as a serious player. Without the anonymous donation that we used to purchase Malswick House, H&GCT would not be where we are today. So very many thanks to that individual, and those who have made contributions to the **Land Fund**, without whom we would not own our sites at Malswick and Newent today.

The **Malswick Project** is very diverse. As part of the deal to minimise the cost we are restoring two brick river

Restore two existing bridges over Ell Brook.

bridges and building a new one for the landowner, as well as various other works around the farm. In about a year or so, we will then start on actual canal restoration which will include a new swing bridge, Road Lock and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of Canal highly visible alongside the B4215.

Once restored, all of this will be directly accessible from Malswick House. The landholdings adjoin each other, adding to the logic of our focus in this area. This is part of the strategic decision that the Strategic Land Acquisitions Group took several years ago.

As part of our new structure we have a Project Working Group focusing on this site led by Paul Henshaw and with Tony Sellwood in support in his wider role. The team at Malswick is growing and within it there are individual project groups taking on different and varied tasks.

Site leader Paul Henshaw, a well experienced volunteer in the Trust, will explain what is required in the next article.

»» DP

“This new length of Canal will give us great challenges for a wide range of abilities and expertise”

Crown lift the boundary.

Construct Road Lock

B4215 to Gloucester





## The Malswick Project

by Paul Henshaw

The new project at Malswick represents a great opportunity to restore a significant stretch of canal, needing the help of volunteers with a complete range of skills

We have spent the last month or so planning exactly how we are going to manage the various elements of the project and to put in place operating procedures to ensure we comply with the Health and Safety regulations.

The first stage of the project will be to carry out extensive repairs to two very attractive brick built farm bridges which cross Ell

The photos show the initial H&S inspection of the bridges to be repaired.





Brook. Over the years they have become somewhat dilapidated and our task is to restore them to their former glory.

We have two teams set up – one for each bridge. A group from Oxenhall headed up by Geoff Hopper have agreed to take on the East bridge and a team from Moat Farm headed up by Robert Heigham will be working on the West bridge. The work will involve the removal of vegetation alongside the banks of the brook, carrying out repairs to the foundations and the complete rebuilding of the parapets and wing walls.

The project also involves the construction of a new bridge to carry farm traffic across the brook , the installation of around 650 metres of new boundary fence and hedging and the construction of two new field gateways.

The route of the canal will go through two sections of woodland, which will give us the opportunity to create wildlife corridors alongside the route. We have enlisted the help of the Worcestershire Wildlife Consultancy to carry out a detailed survey before any work commences so that we minimise any disruption to wildlife.

Our thanks go to Andrew Eastabrook of Hartpury College, the tenant of Okle Clifford Farm, for his help in allowing the Trust establish a temporary HQ at the farm. Please note that the site will not be open to the general public until the canal has been formally completed.



Robert carrying out repairs to the underside of the West Bridge



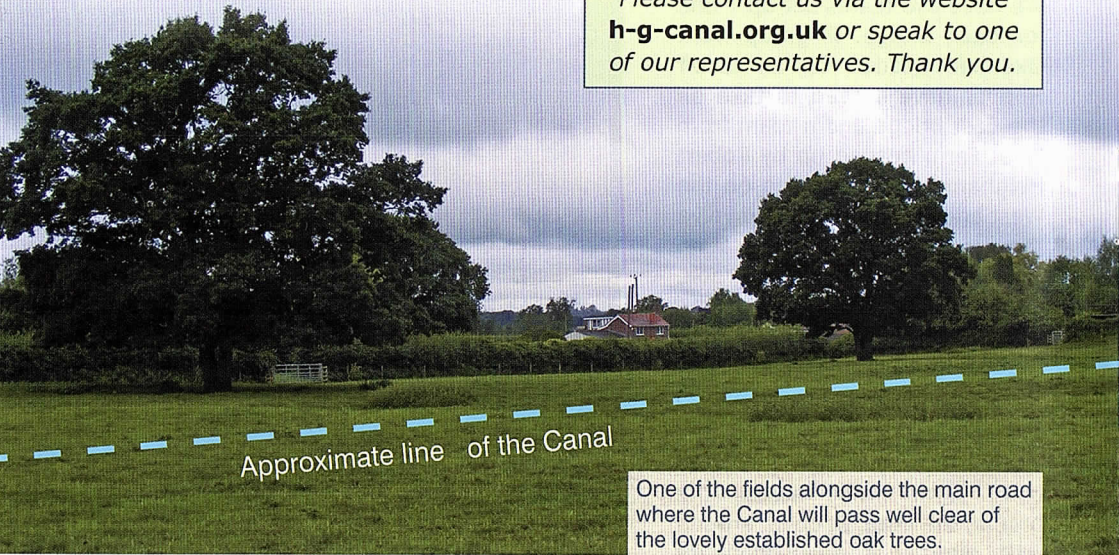
The East bridge showing the extent of repairs which are required

Alan McBride



**Would you like to volunteer  
with the H&GCT at Malswick  
or one of our other sites?**

*Please contact us via the website  
**h-g-canal.org.uk** or speak to one  
of our representatives. Thank you.*



Approximate line of the Canal

One of the fields alongside the main road  
where the Canal will pass well clear of  
the lovely established oak trees.

### **Introducing Tony Sellwood**

Tony is our new volunteer overseeing the delivery of new sites. He gives us the low-down on his past construction experience.

I have spent all my working life in the construction industry; first in general contracting and later in house building. For the last 27 years I was Regional Operations Manager for a national house builder with responsibility for pre start planning, staffing, programme, quality, cost control and safety compliance for up to 20 sites, building up to 800 houses a year over a wide geographical area. Construction of roads, sewers, culverts, major muck shifts and the occasional bridge all fell within my remit.

I am a Retired Member of the Chartered Institute of Building, hold a RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman's Certificate and



Tony enjoying himself on his narrowboat. "Since retiring two and a half years ago I have been able to do lots of this," he says.

have been an inactive member of H&GCT for some years since Maggie signed me up at an open day.

I find retirement unfulfilling, so hope I can help in some way with some interesting projects, meet some interesting people and contribute to a worthwhile challenge.

»» **TS**



# fundraising

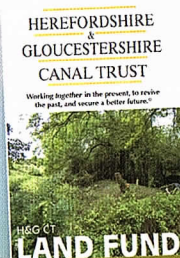
## Welcome Back Caroline!

The Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that Caroline Jones has agreed to return to the Board of Trustees. Caroline is a professional fundraiser and we very much welcome her help and support with the increasing financial needs of the new projects that we are presently commencing.

Caroline Jones is no stranger to H&GCT; as a former CoM member Caroline has already served as a Director for many years after being co-opted on to the Council of Management in 2001. Last year Caroline stood down to enjoy the family's newly acquired narrowboat. After the well-earned break, Caroline now has been co-opted back on to the Board of Trustees in the role of Fundraiser and she will become a director as advised by the Corporate Governance Working Group. She will be required to stand formally for election at the next AGM. >>> MJ

As a small charity with big ambitions, we always have to find the means to carry out the Canal restoration and associated activities. You will read on pages 4 and 5 how important fundraising is and what it has been able to achieve for the Canal's restoration by means of the **LAND FUND**.

Although Caroline will be focusing on obtaining grants for projects on the land we acquire, like that at Malswick, grants are not available for land purchase. For that we need donations and loans. This is why our **Land Fund** needs to raise something like two million pounds in the next few months. Impossible you may say? The H&GCT have never shied away from a challenge. There are presently over 200 acres in the pipeline if we can reach the figure. **Are you able to help us with either a loan or donation?**



H&G CT

# LAND FUND

*more land = more restoration*



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

**visit** [www.h-g-canal.org.uk](http://www.h-g-canal.org.uk) then click 'About the Trust' then click 'Land Fund'



# OVER FESTIVAL

## 2017 Report



The BBQ Team



Gloucestershire Search & Rescue



The Refreshments Team



The Wheelyboat

Volunteer, Ginny Birkett, reports on her first Over Festival experience:

Being a new volunteer I was impressed to see how the volunteers got on with their jobs, in good humour. After Friday's preparation, it was great to see the Festival take shape on Saturday morning in time for the visitors.

My role was to help in the refreshment tent, very ably organised by Margaret. The donated cakes just appeared, and I soon got into the team effort providing cuppas and cake. Maggie asked me to take some photos too, so I could excuse myself from the washing up, and enjoy what was going on around the site.

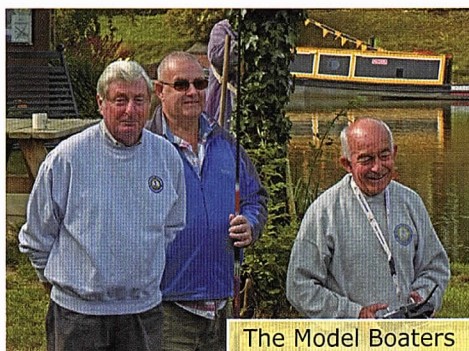
The weather was kind, so our visitors were able to enjoy all the Festival had to offer, relaxing by the water, listening to music, watching the model boats, the trip boats and a lively demonstration by the Gloucestershire Search & Rescue Team.

I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the volunteer team, which, by working together, created a very successful event. >>> **GB**



Mister Maysey





The Model Boaters



The Boater' Craft Group



The Car Parking Team



The H&GCT Sales Team



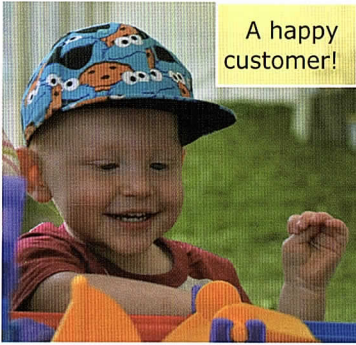
The Grand Holiday Draw Team



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Ginny Birkett and Louisa Jones





A happy customer!



Sailing4Disabled Katakanoes



The Trip Boat Team



Live music on the terrace



More happy customers!



The photos show just some of the many volunteers and organisations that made this event possible. Thank you to all concerned from the Over Festival Organising Team.

Ginny Birkett and Louisa Jones

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# projects in progress ...

Here are some of the projects that our Volunteers have been undertaking at Aylestone Park, Newent Station, Oxenhall and Over Basin.



Mike and Paul admire the new fence

John Pritchard

*John Pritchard writes:*

## Aylestone Park

The Hereford Roving Team has finished erecting a 30m post and rail fence, with rabbit wire, around the spill weir at Aylestone Park. The spill weir is close to a children's playground and the park is a

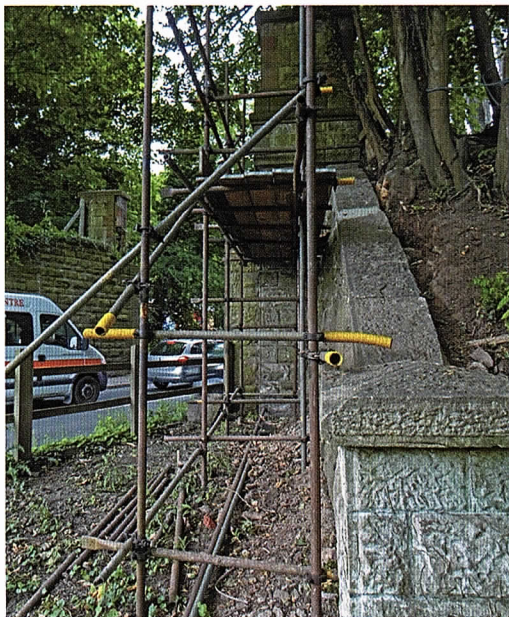
favourite location for many dog lovers. We were keen to prevent small children and dogs getting access to the spill weir chamber. We were helped by Mike, a new volunteer, who seemed to adapt well to the pace of the work! >>> *John Pritchard*

*Brian Fox writes:*

## Repair to the railway abutments at Newent

Work on the bridge abutment in Bridge Street is now complete and the scaffolding has been removed. It took longer than expected as the offending tree roots became larger as we got nearer to the trunk and had to be cut out manually as it was impossible to use a chain saw safely or even a standard bow saw. We are now looking at the wing wall over the road which has the same problem with roots but is nearer to the road and may not be possible without some sort of traffic management system.

The scaffolding in place during the repairs.





## Oxenhall

Preparations are now in hand for our next project which will involve repairs to the wall just below the lock. Over the years the stones, which were never mortared, have been subject to encroachment by numerous plants including brambles and nettles. The plan is to repair it before it becomes unstable. One day in the future this will be a mooring place for boats waiting to use the lock and needs to provide a firm footing, not only for boaters, but for the numerous walkers who currently walk this footpath. There are still many large stones left over from our days restoring the lock and aqueduct which can now be put to good use. To assist us in this work we have very kindly been loaned a couple of floating pontoons by the Sailing4disabled team at Over. This will allow us to work on the wall



Brian Fox

Floating pontoons to help with the repairs.

without resorting to scaffolding which could have proved very unstable sitting on the bed of the canal. In the meantime the pontoons have been floated into the lock and used as a platform to stand on to remove all the weeds growing in the side of the lock. To avoid members of the public being tempted to stand on them a mooring system is being tested where the pontoons are moored in the centre of the pound using a heavy weight to keep them in position.

»»» Brian Fox

*Ted Beagles writes:*

## The Great Wall

At Over the last long section of the great wall has been backfilled. Bob and Ivor have now repaired some damage sustained whilst compacting during

filling, and getting on with the final layer of capping bricks. The short side is waiting a final landscaping of the area before similarly completing. Then it's straight on to the brick arched roof of the cycle cave.



Ted Beagles

Above: The wall sustained some damage during the compaction of the backfill.

Left: The wall has now been topped with blue engineering bricks.



## Aylestone Garden

The patio block paving has been finished in the small garden attached to the 'Aylestone' bedroom at The Wharf House.

A metal railing fence has been erected across the end of the garden to providing a pleasant enclosed outside area for occupants of the room. Finally, The Wharf House gardeners have done a great job planting it up. *Job complete!*

»»» *Ted Beagles*

The completed Aylestone garden at The Wharf House



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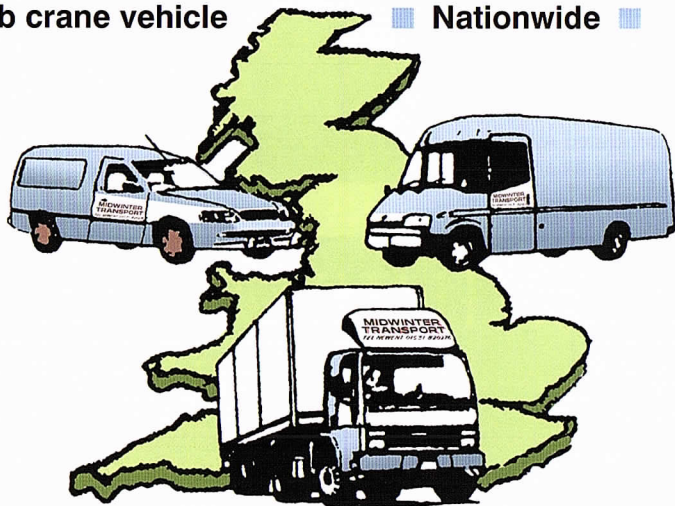


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John Pritchard

## volunteer focus ...

John Pritchard volunteers at Yarkhill as well as leading maintenance teams at Aylestone Park and Burcott Road. He joined the Council of Management in 2015, and has dealt with a range of health and safety issues.

*John, how long have you been volunteering with the H&G CT?*

I have been volunteering for five years.

*What attracts you to the waterways?*

I have always been interested in waterways, and when I was teaching, I enjoyed taking school trips to the National Waterways Museum. On one trip, we visited Oxenhall, but the coach driver wasn't very happy with the narrow lanes!

*What drew you to volunteering with the H&G CT?*

I have been a member of the Trust for twenty years, and always intended to volunteer when I had the time to do so.

*What do you enjoy about working with the teams in Hereford?*

At Yarkhill, I think we are lucky to have a site in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside. I learn a lot from my wise and slightly older colleagues, especially in the area of political correctness!

*Tell us about some of the main duties you carry out as a volunteer.*

At this time of year, I spend quite a lot of time strimming, as we try to keep the vegetation under control at Yarkhill. Recently we built a post and rail fence around the spill weir at Aylestone Park. Earlier in the year we cleared vegetation and small trees from the line of the canal and the fence at Burcott Rd.

*Tell us more about your health and safety role.*

The big challenge for me as Health and Safety Officer is the number of different sites with different Health and Safety needs.

What is appropriate for one site may be totally inappropriate for another. Site Leaders are key in getting it right.

*What was your work before retiring from full time paid employment?*

I was a primary school teacher for 27 years in the same school. I still work part time for St Michael's Hospice.

*What would you say to someone considering volunteering with us?*

Don't do it, unless you want to work in beautiful countryside with a bunch of comedians!

*What is your proudest volunteer moment?*

Showing the public the work we have done at Yarkhill.

*What else would you like to add to your Volunteer Focus*

A big thank you to all my colleagues in Herefordshire for making it fun, most of the time!

»» JP



John planting saplings at Dymock



# 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!*

19 September

## **Water, water everywhere**

– Dave Hill

A miscellany of slides on the theme of water.  
Followed by the **Grand Holiday Draw**.



17 October

## **The Glamorganshire Canal**

– Stephen Rowson

We go back across the border to hear about another Welsh Canal.



21 November

## **Canal and River Trust**

– Nick Worthington

What is going on with CRT in our area.



**Canal &  
River Trust**

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**NOTE** no meeting in December

16 January

## **Thomas Telford**

– Nigel Jefferies

Nigel tells us more about this famous civil engineer, architect and stonemason.







# WINTER BAZAAR

**Saturday, 25 November**  
**9.30 – 15.00**

**St Katherine's Hall, Ledbury**



*It may be cold and bleak outside, but at our annual  
Winter Bazaar it is very warm and welcoming!  
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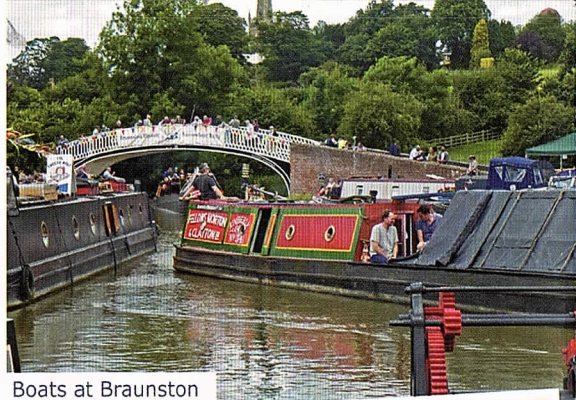


by Janet Moulton and Maggie Jones

We started our travels at the St Richard's Boat Festival at Droitwich. This is held in Vines Park alongside the now re-opened Droitwich Canals and very close to the shops and main road so highly visible. The weather was cold but dry and we welcomed Ginny Burkett to our small team promoting the H&GCT.

A change of scene took us to the lovely gardens of Hellens Manor near Much Marcle for the Hellens Garden Festival, which was well supported with crafts, plants and local foods. Thanks to helpful staff and the Scouts we took our displays and stock to the large marquee and we had our author Dick Skeet (*temporarily in a wheelchair*) on hand to sign *Rescued from Obscurity* which has sold well – copies still available! Plenty of talk and some new members followed.

Our main "away day" was to Braunston Historic Boat Rally - no mud this year and good crowds. We were presented with a donation from Braunston Marina by Timothy West and



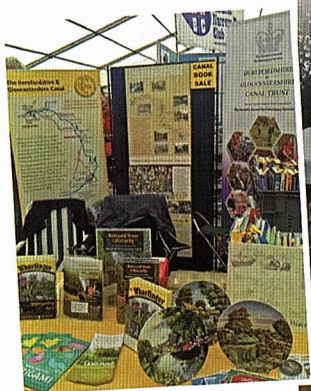
Boats at Braunston



Braunston



Droitwich



Hellens



Prunella Scales. We were joined again by Ginny Burkett so had a new face in the obligatory photograph. We must thank Tim Coghlan for the great support he gives to the Canal Societies who make it to Braunston.

The Gloucester team were also out and about over the summer. We were made very welcome in the Community Marquee at Dymock Music Festival, selling lots of draw tickets to the festival goers and discussing the line of the Canal through the village. Ginny Birkett joined us here too, as well as Kay Gardner, thank you both. We were able to cheer on one of our H&GCT volunteers John Townsend, who was running in the half marathon as part of the event. In June we were at Ledbury Community Day talking to our members and supporters as well as gaining new members to H&GCT. Thank you to Peter Lawrence for his support there. We hope to see you at Newent and Oxenhall Open Day and the Winter Bazaar at Ledbury, see details page 19.


We plan to cover more events next year promoting our Canal so if you can help at some of the events please let Janet or Maggie know. **Thank you.** >>> JM/ MJ



Ginny Birkett / Griff Holiday

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# maintenance *matters...*

This time of year is always particularly challenging with the undergrowth growing by the minute. We say a big thank you to the dedicated teams doing regular maintenance on every site along the Canal. Here are some of the recent tasks undertaken by them:

## Yarkhill

The considerable maintenance task at Yarkhill continues following away days and rain-encouraged growth spurts. The photo shows the west end of the towpath finally brought to heel with team members taking a well-earned break.

»»» *Chris High*

## Oxenhall and Newent

While three or four of our team have been working at the Newent end of the site, the rest of the team have been busy at Oxenhall on general maintenance which includes keeping the track to the cottage open by trimming overhanging branches. Grass has been cut using the two hand mowers, both of which have needed critical maintenance to keep them going. Our ride-on mower gave up the ghost last year but we are expecting a brand new ride-on to be delivered any day now. It can't come soon enough as the growth of brambles and nettles in the Willows area has been left untouched so far this year and threatens to undo all our good work in clearing it last year.

Some of the building materials left at the station have now been sold raising funds for the ongoing work of the Trust but there are still small quantities of items available. Part of the land used for storage has now been cleared of vegetation and levelled to create a parking area for our cars when it settles. Why not come and see what is available on a Tuesday or during our Open Day in September?

»»» *Brian Fox*



Chris High

Volunteers relaxing after their maintenance of the site at Yarkhill

## Over Basin

### Overflow weir

The warm sunny weather along with some rain has meant a sudden surge in growth of the meadow seeding we sowed on the outflow banking of the weir, along with some weeds native to the area. Thus it has become necessary to strim it back and pull out larger growing weeds like docks and nettles to prevent smothering of the new seedlings.



The meadow seeding of the outflow banking.



## Canal algae and weed problems

As noted in the last issue (132), weed and algae clearance is always needed at this time of year. After essential topping up of the canal with nutrient rich water from the River Leaddon along with the recent period of very warm weather, this has resulted in exceptional growth of algae, blanket weed and reeds in the water

Routine running of the heritage boats goes some way to limiting growth and breaking it up but still leaves a lot to be removed. This is removed manually by the model boat club in the basin area and the fishing group at the far end of Vineyard Hill. We then collect it up and disperse it around the site as mulch and compost. The reeds are gradually being pulled out during the regular heritage boat trips.

»» Ted Beagles



The Canal along Vineyard Hill kept clear by regular boat trips.

### *Would you like to get involved?*

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

**Hereford Roving Team** – Thursdays John Pritchard  
01432 272972, johnpritchard32@btinternet.com

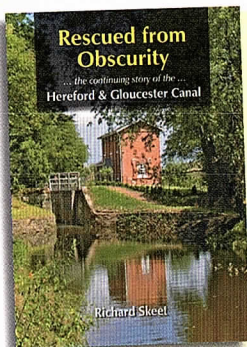
**Yarkhill** – Thursdays – Chris High  
01568 615 575, chris@chrishigh.plus.com

**Oxenhall** – Tuesdays – Brian Fox  
01432 358 628, briandfox74@gmail.com

**New site at Malswick** – Tuesdays – Paul Henshaw  
01684 293 930 paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk

**Newent Station/ Dymock** – Saturdays – Wilf Jones  
01452 413 888, wilfredjones506@gmail.com

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# heritage boats

by Ted Beagles

## Renton

Renton suffered engine failure immediately before the work began to construct the front hold cover. With the cover completed, the emphasis is now on getting it running again. The problem appeared to be water in the fuel originating from condensation in the very large steel fuel tank. The decision was taken to bring forward a planned modification to replace this tank with a modern smaller plastic tank which is much less susceptible to condensation. This has been duly done along with a complete clean up of the fuel system. Upon starting up she ran well for a time, but then suddenly stopped again during a trial run. At the time of writing the engineering team have spent many hours attempting to solve the problem. Each time she appears to be running fine for a while, but then just stops seemingly due to lack of fuel.

Advice from any Lister 2 cylinder engine experts around would be most welcome.



The engineering team gives Renton's engine a trial run.

## Susan E

Visitors to Over Festival the last two years will probably have noticed "Susan E". This is an unusual boat in that it is propelled by a combination of steam and electricity. A boiler provides steam to a steam engine, which in turn drives an alternator that charges a bank of batteries to power an electric outboard motor. She was built by Alan Keef, a local steam enthusiast from Ross on Wye, who has loaned it to the Canal Trust for long term care and maintenance, after replacing the steam engine with a mains electric charging system for the batteries.

We are currently in the process of making it weatherproof and improving the stability with a view to eventually using her to providing public cruises for visitors to Over.

»» TB



Susan E, the steam boat at last year's Over Festival.



Susan E's smart new cover.

Ted Beagles





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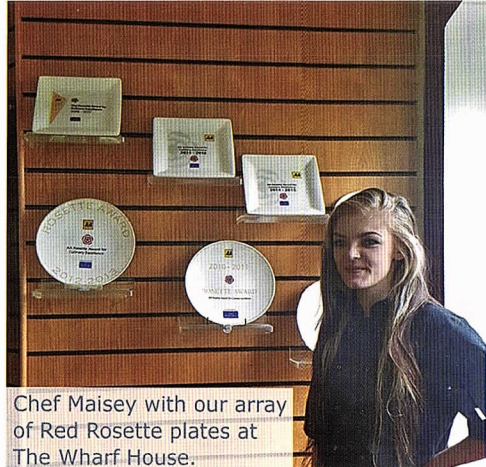


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## THE WHARF HOUSE

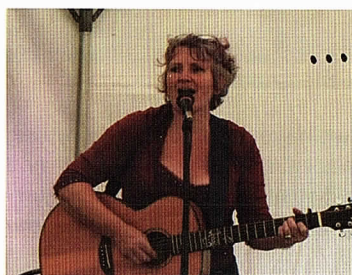
We have had yet another successful quarter for The Wharf House, going into a busy looking summer.

We have recently had our AA inspection which came with glowing compliments and the continuation of our 4 Star Gold rating for the rooms and the Red Rosette rating for the restaurant. Well done to the whole team for their efforts!



Hannah Davis

Chef Maisie with our array of Red Rosette plates at The Wharf House.



## ... and at MALSWICK HOUSE

The sunny Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend saw another social gathering at Malswick House with a good array of local beers, ciders and a BBQ. The live music was much enjoyed by all and included the very popular Lucy Jarrett, who had also played the previous weekend at Over Festival.

»» **Hannah Davis**

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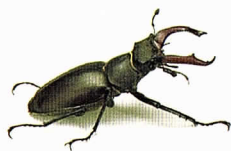
### Stag Beetle Pyramids

by Alan McBride

At the Moat Farm site we have introduced various environmental projects from bug boxes to bird boxes. Our latest initiative, inspired by work being done on the Cotswold Canals Trust restoration, has been to construct stag beetle pyramids.



A stag beetle pyramid



As our section of the canal progresses we have arranged many rotting wood piles. Partly rotten logs are placed on the surface soil and some further soil is put on top and in-between the logs. A do-not-disturb notice has kept them rotting away for years now, to the delight of local insects and arachnids.

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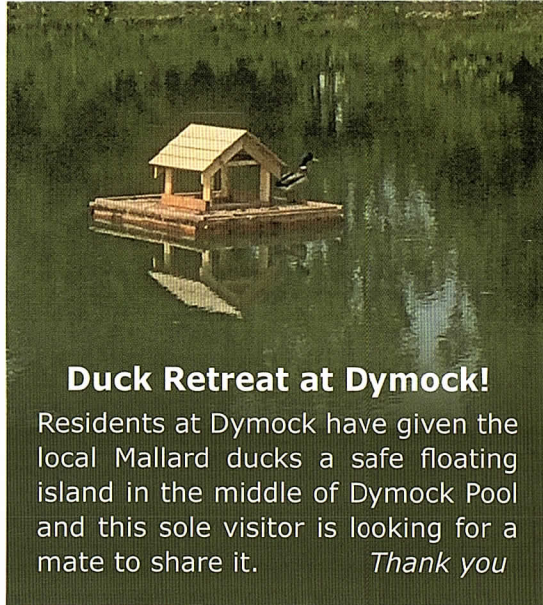


A stag beetle pyramid is similar, but the logs are placed vertically into the ground to a depth of about 60cm. The gaps are filled in with soil and any partially rotten material. They do not need to be pyramid shaped, so we have tried two designs.

Stag beetle females lay their eggs underground on rotting tree stumps and as the grubs hatch they eat their way up the wood and after pupating come out as adult beetles – the largest beetle in the UK, and far less harmful than they look!

»» **AM**

credits: Greenways Project, Ipswich.  
Cotswold Canals Trust



## Duck Retreat at Dymock!

Residents at Dymock have given the local Mallard ducks a safe floating island in the middle of Dymock Pool and this sole visitor is looking for a mate to share it. *Thank you*



Cygnets a few days old

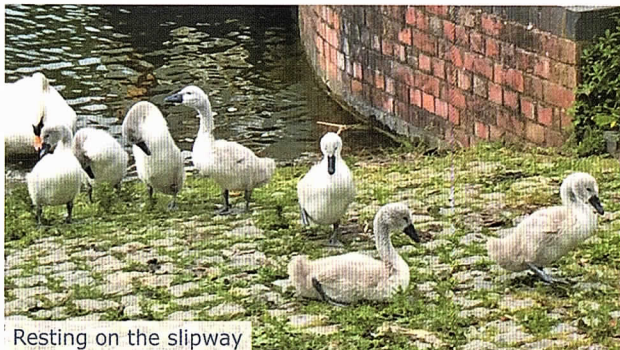
## Swans at Over by Monica Hamer

Once again the swans Sadie and Sam chose Over Basin to mate and re build last year's nest. Sadie spent six weeks patiently sitting on nine eggs, then on the 15 May she proudly introduced us to nine baby cygnets, all hatched and perfect.

Within 24 hours they had left the nest and made their new home on the canal. Sadly one by one, Sam and Sadie lost three of their nine babies, one almost immediately. They don't always stay on the canal, so one day they came back with only six cygnets, only for them to disappear that night and come back with seven the following day. Another has unfortunately disappeared recently reducing the brood to six. We all take it to heart as they are such a delight to the canal.



A feeding table provided



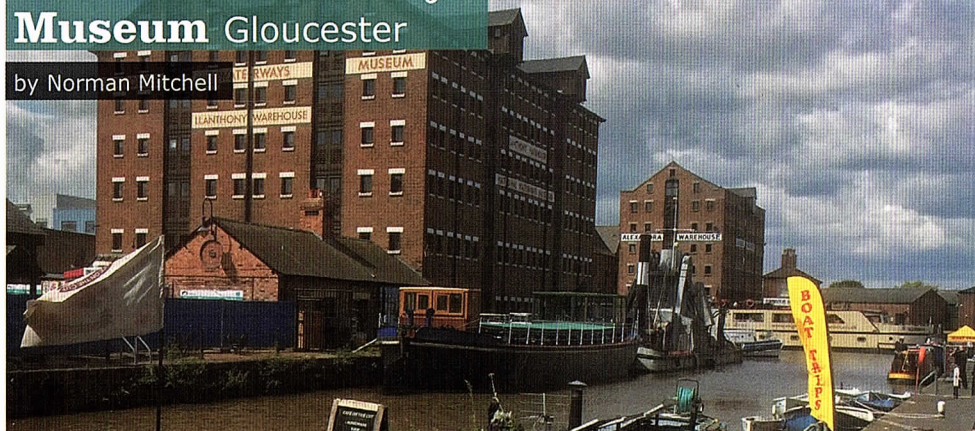
Resting on the slipway



# News from the friends of National Waterways Museum Gloucester

by Norman Mitchell

The Barge Arm at Gloucester Docks:  
Sabrina and the steam dredger by  
the Waterways Museum.



Magie Jones

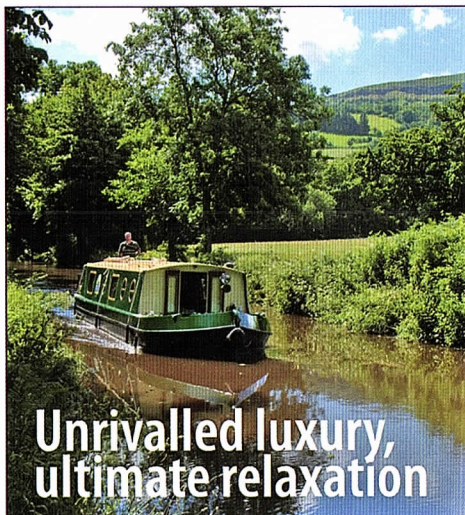
The Barge Arm has been transformed with the return of Sabrina 5. She is pristine with her new paint, layout and entrance. Presently she is being commissioned ready to form a spectacular learning space and meeting room.

A new access ramp has been installed along the quayside to make her accessible to all and a lift inside completes the entrance. The works have been carried out by local ship and boat builders and repairers T Nielsen and funds who have given only to Sabrina 5 or specifically included it in their breakdown are the Heritage Lottery Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Summerfield Trust and the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Charitable Trust.

Our steam dredger is certificated to run and was demonstrated for the Tall Ships event in May. The steam crane on the quayside has recently been inspected and with a recalibrated safety valve will soon be attracting visitors with the steam whistle tooting for all to hear. It will also be reducing the stock of old wood which used to be stored in the Blue Container which may soon move off site.

Plans are still afoot to provide a new entrance for Llanthony Warehouse with tea room and other features to please the visitors to Gloucester Docks. This may be a feature of 2018, we wait in hope and anticipation.

» NM Chairman FGWM



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We are having a bad time with the weed, sadly, due to a lack of co-ordination, the GDMC did not put out the barley straw "sausages" as we have done in the past.

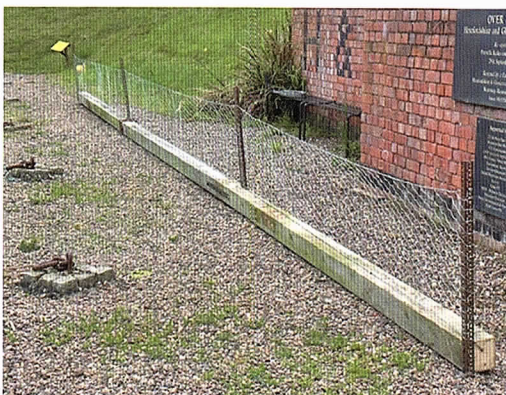
Barley straw is an effective and environmentally friendly control method as we are so close to the River Leaden and Severn. I am glad to report that this year the H&GCT have ordered the necessary barley straw bales which will be here by the time of the Over open weekend. We will then next January/February do our "sausage making" act and put them all round the Over canal stretch, to control algae and floating weed.

However all is not lost as John Hamer our resident harbour master (he lives next to the canal) is arranging the usual "weeding" sessions and in addition has built yet another fiendish device, made apparently from his neighbours balcony. It looks like an upside down fence 45 feet long which is slowly towed the length of the basin and clears the weed so we can sail and the Canal Boats can be used. This means that the canal can be clear for this summer, however the very warm weather is wonderful for weed growth so we will have to keep on top of it.

We are busy on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays and our membership is growing as the year progresses with even more Micromagic sailing boats and an increasing number of "65's" which are smaller versions of the one metre class, the latter being a bit too big to sail well on the basin. »» **DE**



Dragging John Hamer's weed clearer across the Basin at Over.



John Hamer's 'fiendish device' for clearing the blanket weed, shown out of the water.

## Gloucester & District Model Boat Club

Sails at Over basin on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoons (weather permitting). You should find somebody sailing between 1.00pm and 4.00pm. The Club members will be pleased to talk to you about their models and the Club. Members have models of all descriptions including amphibious craft. Yachts are very popular. *Chairman. Edward Tedaldi.*



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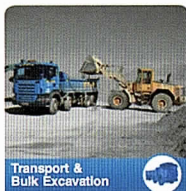
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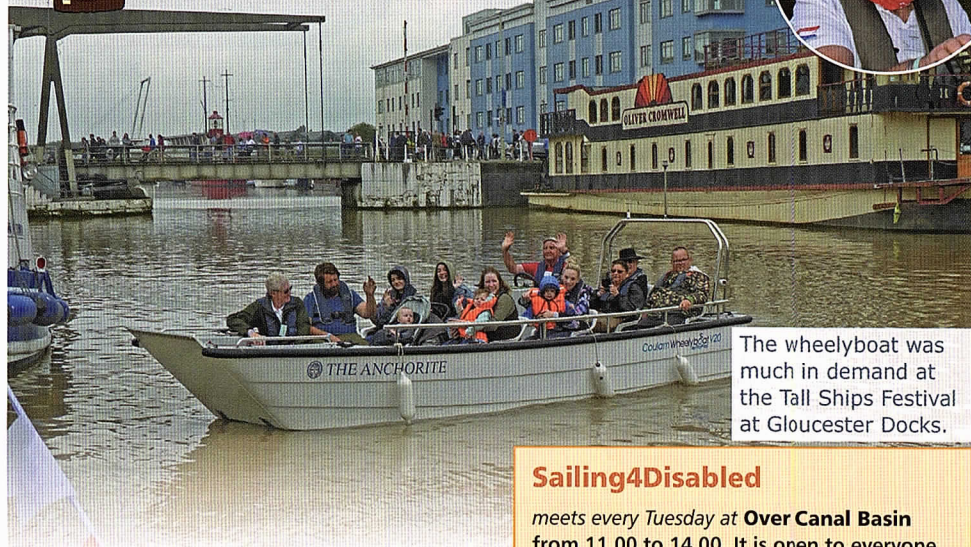
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The wheelyboat was much in demand at the Tall Ships Festival at Gloucester Docks.

## 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.

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How could anyone predict that so much would happen in such a short time? We are steadily starting to become a venue to be enjoyed by all!

If we have space on the boats why not fill them up? That was our feeling at the Tall Ships event at Gloucester Docks back in May. A donation was appreciated for the trip but all were welcome anyway.

After a loss of the first day, because a lifting oversight meant that we only managed one and a half days, but we still managed to take out nearly 100 passengers on the Wheelyboat, with the great support of none sailing helpers. The length of the journey to Saul Junction saw us turning away potential sailors! Maybe our next move is to get another boat! Has anyone got £32,000?

Another move was to loan (hire) 50% of our pontoon to facilitate the work at Oxenhall, this will allow the H&GCT volunteers to work on the water, safely. (See page 13)

By the time you read this we will have had another visit from the Belarussian children, we hope to have a report next edition. Fingers are crossed for fine weather.

All this would be impossible without the dedication of the band of volunteers whom I cannot thank them enough.

We were at Over Festival, another report for next edition but the man on the right is just a clue to the fun we had!



Louisa Jones

»» **PB**





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not quite  
^... the last page!

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## STAMPS

### **Please keep those stamps coming.**

Thank you to all who have sent in stamps. Remember, stamps, albums, old postcards, in fact anything vaguely philatelic, can be turned into cash for the Trust, so please keep them coming. The next target is to pass the £3,000 mark of money raised in this way so we need everything stampwise that you can send us please.

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. **Thank you** >>> **SB**

*Thank you Steve, we are very grateful and impressed with your continued efforts to bring funds to the H&GCT.* >>> **MJ**



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## Old Pound Coins



We mentioned in the last edition that the old paper £5 notes became obsolete from Friday, May 5. Thank you to all of you who have donated them to H&GCT to help with our funds. Please keep them coming.

The clock is also ticking for the old style £1 coins that go out of circulation forever on October 15. Shops can refuse the old version of the coin from that date. It is possible that High Street banks and the Post Office may swap them for the new style coins, but if not, all is not lost, as H&GCT will gladly accept them towards our funds. Please bring to The Wharf House or hand to Janet Moulton at one of the Socials (*see page 18*). **Thank you**

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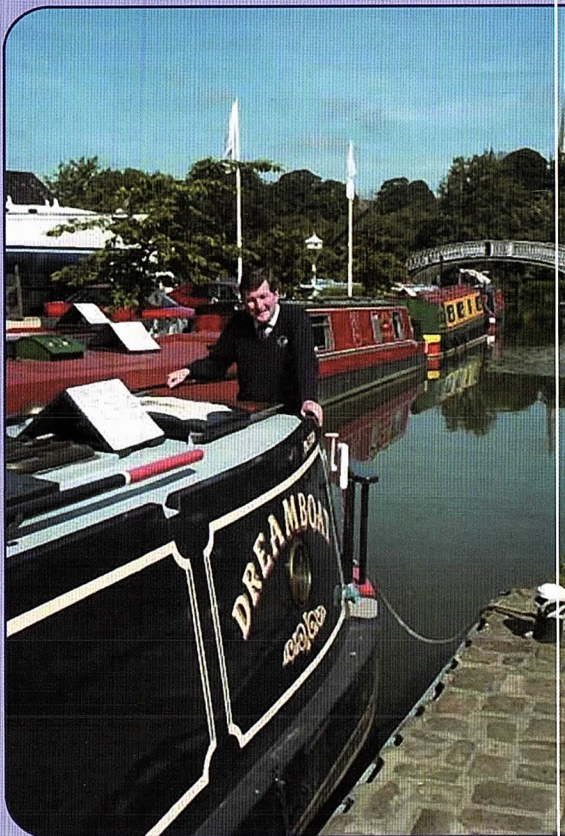
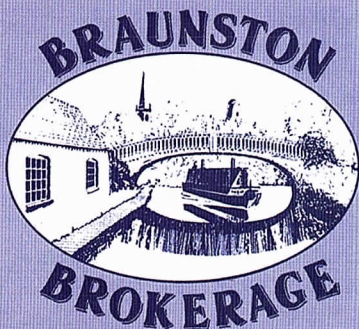
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The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from gardeners to first aiders, brickies

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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01432 820 866  
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Membership records are computerised. Your entry is available for inspection if you send a SAE to the Membership Secretary.

We try to ensure details of talks/events are correct – please verify with the relevant organiser if travelling long distances.

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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 regular financial support from public bodies for its future operation and maintenance.

## The H&G Canal Trust

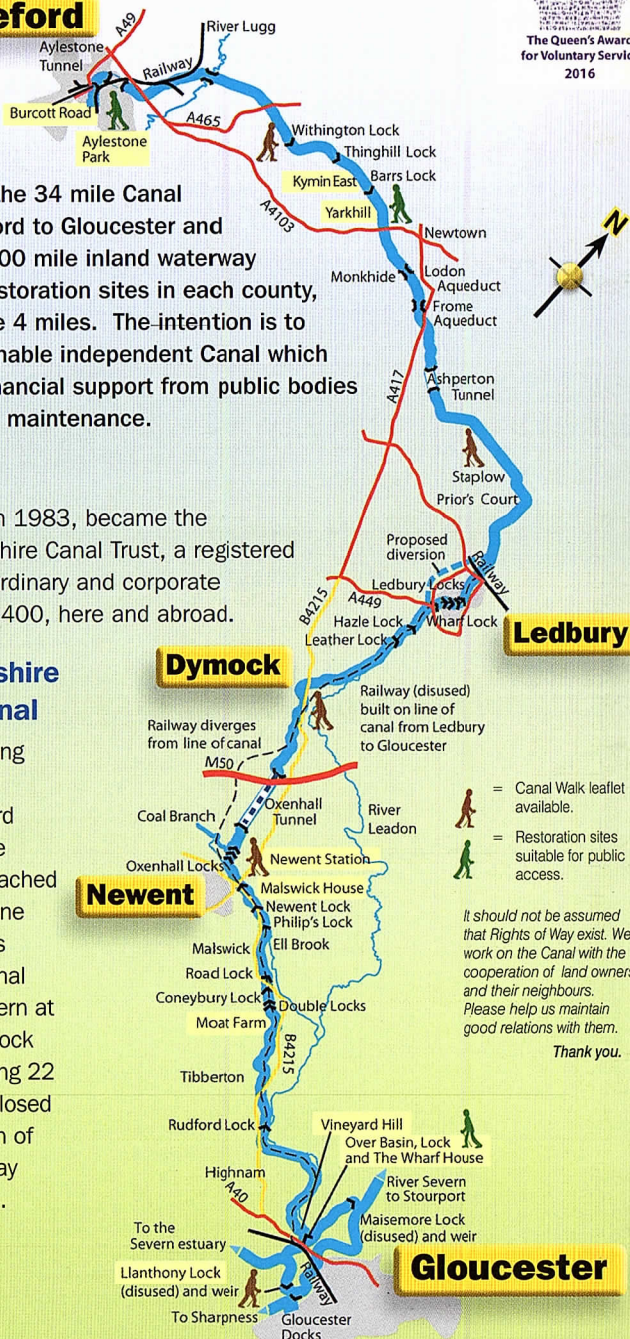
The Canal Society, formed in 1983, became the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity, in 1992. It has an ordinary and corporate membership approaching 1,400, here and abroad.

## The original Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal

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.

## Gloucester Quays

Experience More



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