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Summer 20

The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



136
EDITION

REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER

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

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

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

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

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Cover image: Lovely reflections created by the wet conditions at Yarkhill.
– Bob Comba



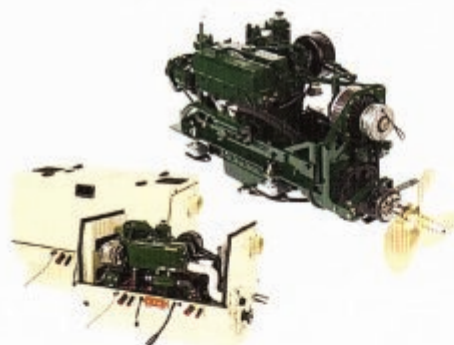
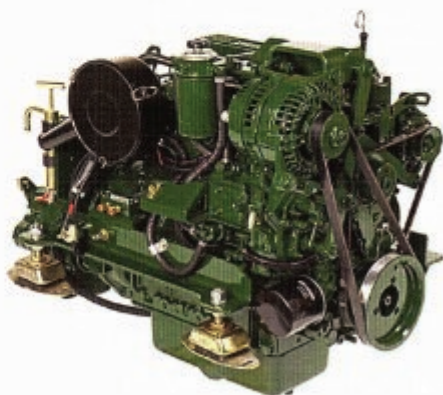
Spring daffodils at Over Basin by Malcombe Claxton

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Building a Win Win Situation!

When completed, the H&G Canal will rank as one of the most attractive cruising routes in the country. This is what we boast, and as the springtime arrives and I walk along stretches of the restored canal, it is clear this will be the case.

We also make it clear that the Canal is not just being restored for boaters, as most visitors to canals are not boaters, but people who come on foot, just to enjoy towpath activities and be near a beautiful and peaceful waterway.

We already have dog walkers, cyclists, model boaters, fishermen and Sailing4Disabled using our waterway at Over every day of the week. Imagine how many local people and visitors to the area could be attracted to the Canal as it passes through unspoiled countryside of our two counties, if we were able to provide longer stretches for them to enjoy! This will in turn boost the local economy and bring jobs to the area. **A win win situation!**

The canal provides a natural habitat for a diverse variety of wildlife and flora for all to enjoy. Historians can step back in time to when the canal was a commercial route. Engineers, architects and those interested in the industrial archeology of the canal can study the design of both the canal remains and the newly restored structures. Visitors can enjoy a meal or snack at one of our waterside establishments. The Canal will become an excellent waterway for all types of craft to travel between two historic cities.

But, before I get too carried away – we have much to do to achieve each few yards of Canal that we restore. You will read on page 6 that some Trustees visited the newest of our sites at Malswick recently.

Weatherwise, we could not have chosen a worse day, as the heavy rains had flooded vast areas. However, when we went to the woodland areas at Malswick and Newent and saw the great strides our volunteers had made in revealing the line of the Canal, no-one could help but be impressed. *Well done to the volunteers concerned!*

Our visit also allowed us to meet with volunteers old and new. Although I know most of the volunteers along the route, it was good to meet Chris and Neil; two new volunteers who have recently joined the gang there, bringing more skills and support to the teams. *Welcome to them.*

Situations vacant

We have a number of areas where we are looking for volunteers to step forward. These include:

Volunteers to be part of a **logs team** to cut and organise collections to local customers. We have the logs, but we need the logging-up and distribution to be co-ordinated, please. *See page 9*

We are looking for a volunteer **Quantity Surveyor/Estimator** to help with specific projects. If you have some experience in this field and willing to offer your services please contact Operations Director, Tony Sellwood on 07525 839520.

Sales stand helpers are also required to help promote the Canal, no experience necessary. *See page 21.*

*Can you help in any of these areas please?
thank you >>> MJ*

Please note, Over Festival is having a year's rest, but it is planned to be back June 2019.

Data protection (GDPR)

Our supporters will be aware that the law is changing on 25 May to safeguard your privacy from unwanted contact from outside bodies. We will all benefit from this as individuals.

Our Promise

Supporters of the H&GCT can be assured that the information you share with us is respected. Please see below our promise to you:

- We will spend donations so that they have the most impact on our work.
- We value every gift, large and small and will always use your gift as soon as we can.
- We will make it easy for you to choose how we get in touch and if you ask us not to get in touch then we won't unless we legally must.

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- We aim to be clear when we collect your data and to not do anything with it that you wouldn't reasonably expect.
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- We will strive for best practice in our fundraising and will comply with the Fundraising Regulators' Fundraising Promise.

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- We can share news and information at the soonest possible opportunity.
- The cost and time of printing and postage to the entire membership is considerable and emailing you directly saves money that can be ploughed back into canal restoration.
- In turn, it helps us to keep the cost of annual subscription low for all our members to enjoy.

GDPR compliant consent form

We'd love to keep in touch with you by post, phone, text or e-mail with news about our work, new services or our latest fundraising objectives. Please be assured we'll treat your information with respect and will keep it safe. We will never sell it for marketing purposes. Please see our privacy policy on the website for more details.

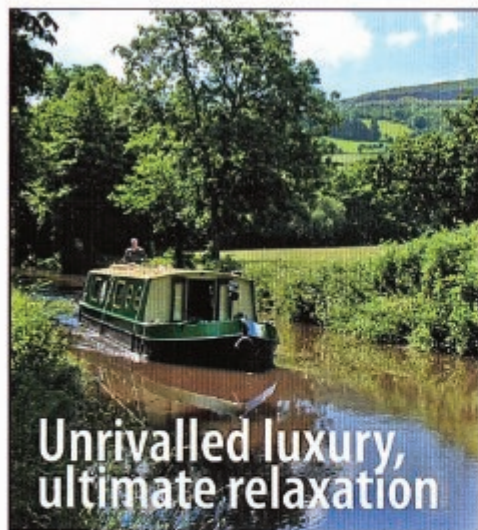
If you would like to change or review the details already given by you when joining the H&GCT, please fill in the **GDPR compliant consent form** available on the website and either print off and post to our membership secretary. The address can be found on the form.

Or email him: **membership@h-g-canal.org.uk**.

Should you not have access to the internet you can request a form by writing to our membership secretary, Nigel Jefferies. *His details are inside back cover.*

If we do not hear from you, your details will remain unchanged.

Thank you



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Advance Notification

H&G CT 2018 Annual General Meeting

This is an advance notice of the 2018 AGM to give Members the opportunity to make a note in their diary. The Agenda and Annual Report will be in the next edition of *The Wharfinger*.

Please note venue:

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, 22 October** at **Ledbury Community Hall**. We have chosen a central location so hope to see you there. Reports and other details will follow in the next edition.

Thank you

Trustees make site visits to the Newent Area

Our Chairman, Vaughan Welch writes:

A number of Trustees visited Malswick, Moat Farm and Newent restoration sites to familiarise themselves with the site and its progress.

It was also a good opportunity to meet the volunteers, whose dedication towards the project was very much appreciated. Without them, the long task of restoring a long-abandoned canal would be difficult. In many places the canal has been lost, even where the later railway was built over the line of the canal it is disappearing as farmers plough it back into their fields. However, the results of the volunteer labours clearly demonstrate to the politicians what can be done to significantly improve the environment that they represent.

The ground, especially at Malswick, was particularly water logged on the day and so any bridge renovation was impossible, and yet the volunteers were still at work on all the other tasks that need doing. It was good to meet them, especially the new volunteers, Chris and Neil. We were impressed to see the great strides that have been made in undergrowth clearance in the two woodland areas. *See pages 10-11.*

At Newent the work around the fire station that is earmarked for the canal was also impressive. *See pages 14-15.*

On behalf of all the Trustees I would like to thank all of the site leaders and volunteers for devoting their own time to help us achieve our goal.

»» **VW**

We must remind readers that our visit was by special agreement and there is no public access to the sites available until the work has been completed.



Trustees admire work done at one of the woodland sites at Malswick with Site Leader, Paul Henshaw, *second left*.

Wulf Jones

New faces at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE *by David Penny*

Whilst we are sad to say farewell to Tessa to pursue a career with TSB we are very pleased to have made new appointments at The Wharf House and L&PDT to strengthen the team.

Lucy England takes on a combined Front of House and PR role and will assist the L&PDT on the Funding and Project Development side. Lucy is an avid boater; past volunteer at the Cotswold Canals Trust with previous catering industry experience. More recently she has spent 4 years as Development Manager at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

before changing roles to spend the last 18 months with a Digital Marketing Company including involvement in GDPR compliance.

In the kitchen David Penny and Maisy Smith (*who have both won AA Red Rosettes for The Wharf House*) are joined by Ryan Horton who served his apprenticeship at the 2 AA Rosette Verzons Country House Hotel Ledbury, and has just left the Montpelier Lodge in Cheltenham.

It is an exciting time of delivering growth within both the H&G Canal Trust and The Wharf House Group and this is one of the next steps towards that.

»» **DRP**

L&PDT News *from the Legal & Project Development Team*

Holmer Trading Estate

David Penny writes:

Wharfinger readers will have read, and possibly been confused by, the article in the Hereford Times recently that said the Canal Restoration plan at Holmer has 'fallen through'.

Previously, H&G Canal Trust evidence at an Inquiry secured consent and £1.4million towards the canal's restoration. At the time the Inspector had ruled that the 'Canal outweighed breach of Employment Policy' and outweighed 'conflict with the development plan'. This clearly demonstrating the importance placed on the Canal within the city.

Sadly, the latest prospective developers of the site told the local Planning Committee that they can no longer afford to restore this section of Canal as part of the Hereford Housing Plan, despite in 2015 planning permission being granted to them to develop the land on the trading estate with this proviso.

Some Hereford Councillors were outraged by this and thought it was wrong that the developer could pull out of the commitment they had made when they had been in full knowledge of the facts and responsibilities when they had bought the land.

The developer said it was not viable to pay for full restoration of the Canal along this stretch. They did commit to safeguarding the line of the canal corridor and landscaping at a cost of £160,000. The need for affordable housing and the danger that the former trading estate will be left derelict for years to come was what swayed most of the councillors to vote in favour of the developer's offer.

Disappointing though this is to H&GCT, we have asked for the ownership of this corridor of land to be transferred to us so that full restoration can continue at some point. Part of the problem is that the brownfield site has been contaminated by previous industrial use. Restoring the Canal at this point will be costly, but H&GCT still have every intention of restoring the stretch of Canal known as Holmer, from Aylestone Park to the Aylestone Tunnel in Hereford when a solution has been found.

»» **DRP**



As a charity we always need funds to further the aims of our Canal restoration. Yes, we need large sums of cash that must be raised by grants, loans, donations and so on, but there is also a need for a steady flow of small amounts to help with the day to day running and for smaller projects.

Here are a few of the ways that money can be raised including talks, draw tickets, log selling, even collecting stamps. We also look to local and waterways-connected businesses to advertise in *The Wharfinger* to help with our printing costs. If you are able to help raise funds in any way we look forward to hearing from you. **Thank you.**

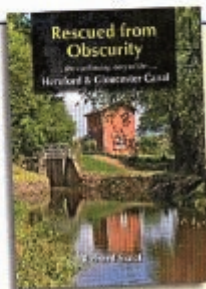
Spreading the Word!

We must give thanks to a small team of volunteers who regularly give talks to other organisations. This includes Dick Skeet who tells us here about those he has done in the past few years.

Dick Skeet writes:

On April 13th 1983 the late David Bick gave a talk about the 'Hereford Canal' in the Red Cross Hall in Hereford and there have been people doing much the same ever since. In 2011, I began keeping records of the talks I was giving and I see that I have clocked nearly 30, with six more booked for this year. The audiences have ranged from Canal Societies, IWA Branches, local history groups, U3A groups, Probus Clubs, WI branches, gardening clubs and all sorts of other groups. While most of my talks are fairly local, I have strayed as far as Bristol, Birmingham, Swindon, Runcorn, Nottingham and Croydon.

We do not make a charge for our talks but we are always happy to accept a donation to the Trust, which just from my talks alone has clocked up well over £1000. I can usually manage to flog off some copies of



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the continuing story of the Hereford & Gloucester Canal by Richard Skeet

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Rescued from Obscurity too, so that helps as well. But more importantly, this raises awareness of the work we are doing. I still meet people who have lived in the area for many years who tell me they didn't know we once had a canal. I don't know where they have been, but they sure know now!

»» **DS**

*If you belong to an organisation who would like to learn more about the history of our Canal and the work of the H&GCT please contact us via our website: **www.h-g-canal.org.uk***

NEW!

Logs team

We are setting up a new team to manage an operation to sell logs, based in the yard at the rear of Malswick House. The team will be responsible for arranging for the corded wood harvested from Canal operations to be delivered to the yard. They will be seasoned, split with a hydraulic log splitter, and sold to local customers. This will include delivery. All proceeds will support the canal restoration.

Volunteers who are willing and interested in helping with this operation should contact **Tony Sellwood** on majorprojects@h-g-canal.org.uk

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STAMPS

Thank you to all who have sent in stamps. Please keep them coming.

Please save all the stamps from your old envelopes. Stamps, albums, old postcards, in fact anything vaguely philatelic, can be turned into cash for the Trust. 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

Grand Holiday Draw 2018

Once again we have some great prizes, so let's make this another successful Year!



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This year again we have sent you two books of tickets with the last Wharfinger for you to sell to family and friends. More books can be sent to you if required. Please contact Janet Moulton.

Please Note: All completed ticket stubs and money from their sale should be returned to the promoter, Janet Moulton. See inside back cover or tickets for details.

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projects in progress ...

Paul Henshaw writes:

Malswick

This winter's weather with low temperatures, snowfall and heavy rainfall has brought to a halt any further work on the two bridges.

Undeterred, we concentrated our efforts carrying out a first pass clearance of the east woodland, cutting back and burning brambles and scrub. It took nine weeks to open up the whole length of the wood.

The main objective was to enable us to get an uninterrupted line of sight so that during the summer, a survey team can go in and prepare a detailed plan of the whole site and establish the levels and the position of the locks.

In addition, any trees overhanging the boundary fence were either cut back or had their crowns lifted. This was one of the items, which the Trust has to complete as part of the Conditional Contract to acquire the site.

We were also able to clear what will become a high level path just inside the boundary fence. This will provide a very attractive view looking down onto the newly constructed canal as well as looking across to Okle Clifford Farm and beyond.

Meanwhile behind the scenes a lot of effort has gone into the design of the new



Halfway there!



Please note that there is
NO PUBLIC ACCESS
on this site until the Canal
has been formally
completed here, thank you.

Breaking out towards Newent.



Site for the new bridge Okle Clifford Farm in the background.



The East woodland looking towards Gloucester.



Lunch and putting the world to rights.

bridge, which will cross Ell Brook. It will have a capacity of 32T and an operating width of 5 metres. The Environment Agency unfortunately rejected our first proposal and a second design comprising a steel beam structure with a concrete deck was developed with the help of Thomas Ashworth of Tony Gee & Partners. Assuming that we receive all the necessary approvals, we plan to commence construction in May/June.

The second week of April saw an improvement in the weather and we were able to make some tentative steps to continue work on the bridges. Over the winter a lot of flotsam had built up around the arches as the flood waters overtopped the structures. This had to be cleared and the scaffolding checked before work could be restarted.

If you feel you would like to help please contact Paul Henshaw on 01684 293930, thank you. >>> **PH**

Thank you to **John Pritchard**

Sadly, John Pritchard has been forced to stand down as a Trustee for personal reasons and the Trust will be worse off as a result. John has made a significant contribution towards improving our health and safety standards and will be difficult to replace. On behalf of both the Trustees and the working members I would like to thank him for making their contributions towards our aims and objectives in a much safer environment.

>>> **Vaughan Welch**

on behalf of the Board of Trustees

more projects *in progress* ...

Over Basin

Ted Beagles writes:

The Vineyard Hill fence

As part of the Trust's ongoing commitment to our neighbours, the Vineyard Hill Trust, we were asked to erect a fence across their field at the point where the new sound barrier finishes, part way up the hill.

The work was required to be finished by February in time for the sheep which graze the field to be returned. This gave us just January to do all the work in five Wednesdays. By the time the design work was completed and materials procured only three Wednesdays remained. Due to the construction work taking place in the field, normal access was not possible, and to get the materials to into place required access via a field at the very top belonging to Over Farm Market. Fortunately the Grillo mower trailer had just been completed, so we were able to use it to transfer the posts, wire and all heavy tools etc into place on the first day and to start work on the fence proper. By the end of the day we had dug the holes for the tensioning posts the gate posts and concreted them into position, in failing light and continuous rain.

The following week the weather was worse; heavy rain and strong winds all day. But to meet the deadline we had to press on. Fortunately we had managed to recruit two experienced fencing experts from Malswick, Paul Henshaw and Richard Beard to enhance the team, and by the end of the day all the intermediate posts were in place and the wire strung in place and tensioned. After all the rain that had



The first day – planning the fence posts.

fallen during the day we struggled to get vehicles up the hill.

The following week was 31 January and we returned in slightly better conditions with sunny intervals. The last item to be taken up to the field was the gate, which in view of the problems driving across the fields the previous week, we decided to carry up Horseshoe Drive and the garden of no.12. The only remaining tasks to be completed were erecting the gate, checking the wire tension before finally locking it in place and cutting off loose ends. Finally all debris was collected up to leave the area clean and safe for the sheep.

The Vineyard Trust have subsequently expressed complete satisfaction with the fence.

Thanks to Over Farm Market for allowing access for vehicles across their field to transport materials to the site, and to Gray O'Hanlan and his wife, in Horseshoe Drive for allowing personnel to traipse through their garden into the field, and also for providing us with tea and coffee.

» **TB**



The team proudly stand by the completed fence.
Left to right: Tim, Terry, Bob, Peter and Andy.

Ted Beagles

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

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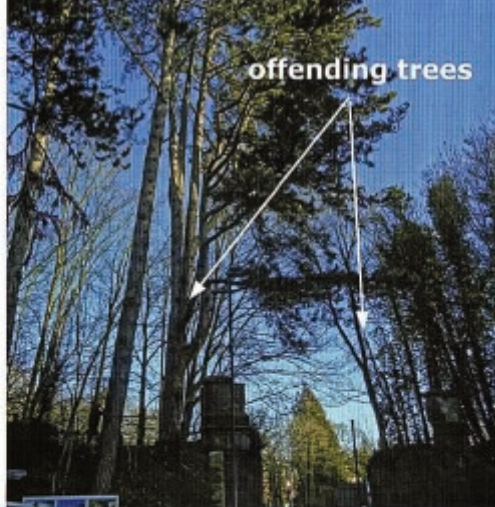
SHEET METAL WORKS, ASHLEWORTH, GLOUCESTER, GL19 4JJ

Newent Station

Brian Fox writes:

Tree Management

Readers will recall the report last year of the tree adjacent to the old railway bridge which grew too large and threatened to topple one of the remaining stone pillars.



The potentially dangerous trees are felled by an expert lumberjack.



The stonework has been made safe by the Council but the offending tree was still standing and has now been cut down by trees surgeon, Adrian Hope from Much Marcle. Our thanks to him for bringing his team of trained lumberjacks to do this and also cut down two other large trees which were deemed to be too close to the stonework and liable to cause similar problems with their roots. All the trees had preservation orders on them but permission was obtained before a start could be made. Traffic on the adjacent road was briefly halted while each tree was felled and the day passed without any problems leaving us to attend to the task of clearing three felled trees. It took another two weeks before all the top branches were disposed of and then two of our own chainsaw trained volunteers had to cut the remaining trunks into suitable sized logs. We now have a surplus of logs which are available for sale.



The felled trees are chopped up by our own chainsaw team.



Over a hundred years old!



The team take a break from their work by their campfire.

Clearing the undergrowth

The area immediately to the side and rear of the fire station has now been cleared sufficiently to see the full extent of the old winding hole and measures about 30 x 40 metres. The area to be restored to water has been marked out so that we can determine precisely where we dig, how much soil is to be removed, and where to put it. This is clearly a very important site for not only the restoration of the old canal but the land the Trust now owns includes several acres of untouched woodland and scrub areas. Consultation will be made with relevant environmental groups to decide the best way forward. >>> **BF**



The area alongside the fire station is cleared and rubbish collected.

Brian Fox

Site Safety: *then and now ...*

by Tony Sellwood and John Pritchard



In the 19th century when they built the railways, one worker died for every mile of track laid and that got worse during tunnelling operations.

The Woodhead Tunnel finished in 1845 between Manchester and Sheffield claimed 32 lives and a further 23 died of cholera. This was a worse fatality rate than was sustained by soldiers fighting in the Battle of Waterloo!

Heaven only knows how many died building the canals years earlier.

Some time later in 1963, when Tony joined the building industry, safety was not much of an issue, we all thought "It couldn't happen to us", and went to work in gardening wellies, donkey jackets and flat caps.

In 1974, the Health and Safety at Work Act was published, which enshrined in Criminal Law the obligations of both employers and employees in respect of Health and Safety and made possible Criminal prosecutions of transgressors. There were 166 fatalities in the industry that year.

There followed, and still continues, a whole raft of legislation all intended to reduce the accident rate by targeting particular operations.

All of this legislation applies to canal restoration as much as it applies to all sorts of other construction activity, there is no differentiation because volunteers are involved.

By the early 1990s Personal Protective Equipment became mandatory and its use widespread. Everyone on site was,

and is, expected to look after their own personal safety. The slogan: **No hat, No boots, No hi-viz = NO JOB** was, and remains common on safety notices at site entrances and eventually the wearing of PPE became as much second nature as *Clunk-click every trip*. Many sites now insist on the wearing of safety glasses and appropriate gloves by everyone on site at all times as well.

To help us keep up with legislation we now have the **H & G Safety Association** to advise us, and as we are aware of a fatality on another canal restoration not long ago, and another serious accident more recently, which will focus the Health and Safety Executive on the restoration movement in general.

Despite all the legislation 43 people died in the construction industry in 2016, each of those a personal and family tragedy, and an extremely traumatic experience for those concerned on site.

We all volunteer because we enjoy it, let's make sure that we keep ourselves and others safe, don't allow or participate in unsafe actions and abide by H&GCT policy in the wearing of Personal Protection Equipment at all times.

Face masks

Deaths from accidents on site are now relatively rare, so the HSE focus has turned to industrial disease. Silica dust is the 'new' asbestos and is linked to 800 deaths per year in the UK. Volunteers, please wear a mask when creating dust from bricks, concrete or mortar and let the H&S Officer know so he can carry out a face fit test.

»» TS / JP

Heritage boats

Bosley's cabin

The inside of heritage tugboat, **Bosley's** cabin is looking very smart after being refurbished by Dave Hurran and Mike Hunt. The walls have been clad in offcuts of domestic shower board, and the floor covered with left over Karndean tiles, both of which are fully water resistant and very hard wearing, so it should last a long time with minimum maintenance.



Bosley

Left: Dave clads the cabin walls whilst Mike (below) cuts the floor tiles.



Susie E

Susie E developed a small leak in the hull below the waterline where a plate had been fitted to blank an unused connection. As we have a trailer for the boat it was a relatively easy task to get her out of the water. However it was very difficult to access it from the outside as the trailer structure was in the way. The problem was eventually solved by finding a thin person with reasonably slender fingers. After several people had failed, eventually Graham managed it and new sealant applied before replacing the plate. At the time of writing we have not had chance to actually prove the repair in the canal, as we are doing routine maintenance of the hull and superstructure which is still ongoing.

» TB



Graham was able to apply the sealant to Susie E's hull.

Ted Beagles



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



Ian Turner

volunteer focus ...

Ian Turner is a regular volunteer at our Oxenhall and Newent sites. He turns his hand to a variety of tasks including helping on occasions at Over Festival. Ian is currently working on one of the two bridge restorations over Ell Brook at Malswick.

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

I have been a volunteer for nine years now – doesn't time fly!

What attracts you to the waterways?

I became interested in abandoned and disused canals, as where I once lived we had one within a short distance and a tramway (the uncompleted Leominster canal).

What drew you to volunteer with the H&G CT?

When I retired I wanted an activity which combined the open air, physical activity and a purpose and the H&GCT provides all these in abundance.

What do you enjoy about working with the teams?

I learn a lot from the people I work with and the friendship, teamwork and laughter is important. Another great attraction is the planning and head scratching before the start of a project where everyone contributes. The work involved is varied and interesting.

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

Well this covers a lot – from grass cutting, building work, tractor maintenance to scrub clearing, scaffolding and fencing. You learn a lot of new skills working on the canal and refresh older ones.

Tell us more about your current work at Malswick?

At Malswick we are rebuilding the old bridges across the Ell Brook and our team is working on the East Bridge. The main effort is in the

brick laying, but before we could start the equipment and materials had to be calculated and transported to the site and the river banks cleared. We built a compound to keep out the stock and then erected scaffolding.

What was your work before volunteering for H&G CT?

I was a partner in a small engineering company which manufactured grain dryers which we sold in the UK and exported all over the world.

What would you say to someone considering volunteering with us?

Do it. Where else can you have the interesting and varied outdoor activities with like minded people?

What is your proudest volunteer moment?

There have been many moments of satisfaction. When we finished rebuilding the spillway at Lock Cottage, Oxenhall was one but also often when presented with a task which may seem beyond our scope the buzz when the team work out a way of doing it is very satisfying.

»» IT



Ian (right) undergoing scaffolding instruction during bridge restoration at Malswick.



Janet Moulton

Janet was presented with a Buckby Can and Certificate



Cliff Penny

Honorary Life Presidents

As mentioned in the previous edition, Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust have appointed two long-standing volunteers, Janet Moulton and Cliff Penny, in recognition of their exceptional voluntary contributions, as Honorary Life Presidents.

A short ceremony to thank Janet and Cliff for the thousands of hours that they have so far spent as volunteers in a multitude of significant roles was planned for 20 March at the commencement of our Social Evening at the Royal Oak, Much Marcle. Sadly, Cliff was taken ill the previous week and was in hospital.

Janet was honoured with the award on the evening. She was presented with a bespoke H&G Buckby can designed by Caroline Jones and a framed certificate by our Chairman, Vaughan Welch. We hope you will all join us in saying a big thank you to them both for their massive support to canal restoration send Cliff our very best wishes.

»» Board of Trustees



Travels
with the
Trust Stand

by Janet Moulton and Maggie Jones

The Sales and Promotion teams are expecting to attend a number of events this year.

This is the list for 2018....

May 5	Droitwich Boat Festival, Worcestershire
June 9	Ledbury Community Day
June 23-24	Historic Narrowboat Rally, Braunston, Northamptonshire
August 18	Tibberton Show
Sept. 8	Newent Onion Fair
Sept. 9	Newent & Oxenhall Open Day
Nov.10	H&G CT Winter Bazaar, Ledbury

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

We welcome additional volunteers to help promote the Canal; 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 time to look around.

We would like to attend other local shows so if you know of any please talk to Janet or Maggie. »» JM/MJ



Paul Hatt *remembered*

by Chris High

It is with sadness that I write to inform you that Paul, a volunteer with the Yarkhill Team since early 2008, passed away in January after a brave fight against cancer.

Paul arrived at his funeral in Worcester in a beautifully painted 'narrow boat' coffin carried on a trailer pulled by his vintage 'Fergi' tractor driven by his son David. Paul's sense of humour was a strong theme throughout the service including stories about his police exploits to the choice of Captain Pugwash (his phone ring tone!) as a musical interlude and finally Sweet Transvestite from the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Paul was a valued member of our Team able to turn his hand to most tasks but especially machine driver and mechanic. He soon took on the role of my Deputy giving me considerable support and assistance. He carried out substantial work at Yarkhill digging stumps, ground levelling and bank profiling. His efforts spread to Kymin and Moat Farm. At Kymin he became the emergency service using Sam, Yarkhill's excavator, to rescue hired plant. At Moat Farm he worked in support of the digging of the canal bed, moving and levelling spoil.

Paul will always be remembered as a considerate colleague, excellent friend and a good companion.

» CH



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maintenance matters...

Yarkhill *Bob Comba Reports:*

Following the sad loss of Paul Hatt the team agreed it would be appropriate to suspend work at Yarkhill until after the burial service which was attended by those of us who were able.

We reported, in the last *Wharfinger*, that a contractor had done good work mowing and tidying up the length. As he had been unable to reach the wild side hedge line, the team has been working along the length to bring the hedge back into shape. Grappling with the hawthorn and blackthorn, which seem to have had a particularly vigorous and thorny season, has lent the work some added point!

»» **BC**

The two photos show the length in water, and the difference a week can make.



Bob Comba



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Over *Ted Beagles Reports:*

New containers

Over volunteer, Graham Lamond, is also a member of Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust, for whom he volunteers at weekends. Their major Heritage lottery funded project is almost finished and the construction site area cleared to make way for final landscaping. He discovered that the two containers on the site were available to H&GCT as long as we removed them quickly. Transport was arranged with **Midwinter Transport** (Advert page 24) and within a week one was delivered to Over Basin and the other to Malswick House where they are now being put to good use by us. **Well done and thank you, Graham.**



Top: Container being unloaded at Over.

Above: Graham standing by the new container.

The Wharf House gardens and car park

The usual seasonal maintenance is in full swing at the moment. The car park has been cleared of the build-up of leaves and moss in the parking bays and the surrounding shrubbery cut back to give good clear access into the bays. Similarly around The Wharf House shrubs and hedges have been trimmed to give good

access along paths and allow new planting in the soil.

If you glance into the fenced off patio garden by the Wharfhse annex you will see a new tall willow obelisk. This was made by our very own Pat March during a willow weaving course run by Mike Bowden and made from willow grown by Mike on site. (See page 29) >>> **TB**



Tim clears undergrowth from The Wharf House car park.




Maggie and Mike cutting hedges around The Wharf House gardens.




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Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Navigation Share Certificates

The 1791 Act of Parliament enabled the Canal Company to raise £75,000 by the issue of £100 share certificates, which, together with an additional £34,000, enabled the canal to be built from the River Severn at Gloucester, to just short of the half-way town of Ledbury.

The third Act of Parliament in 1839 authorised the issue of 2,250 £20 preference share certificates which partly financed the construction from Ledbury to Hereford.

Since the formation of the Canal Society in 1983 and now the Trust, the existence of only 23 share certificates has come to light, some are now owned by members of the Canal Trust.

I find it surprising that only five of the 1839 £20 preference shares have come to light, since as David Bick relates, when the Canal came under the control of the Great Western Railway, they agreed to pay an annual rent of £5,000. Following the closure of the Canal in 1881, this sum was divided and distributed to the preference shareholders until the Nationalisation of the Railways in 1948.

»» NJ



Register of existing certificates

The Original 1793 Issue

- No. 11 Thomas Andrews of Bristol, Gentleman.
- No. 13 Thomas Andrews, as above.
- No. 51 The Reverend Thomas Beale of Bengworth in the County of Worcester.
- No. 89 Francis William Thomas Brydges of Tibberton in the County of Hereford Esquire *
- No. 116 Samuel Carless of the City of Hereford, Mercer.
- No. 119 John Carless of Newent, Mercer.
- No. 214 William Dowell, Gentleman of Weston-under-Penyard.
- No. 217 Samuel Draper, Gentleman of Newent.
- No. 345 James Hereford of Sufton Court in the County of Hereford, Esquire. *
- No. 346 James Hereford, as above. *
- No. 347 James Hereford, as above. *
- No. 348 James Hereford, as above. *
- No. 349 James Hereford, as above. *
- No. 350 James Hereford, as above. *
- No. 457 John Matthews, Esquire of the City of Hereford.
- No. 461 John Matthews, as above. *
- No. 471 William Money of Much Marcle, Esquire. Spink & Son, Auction London Nov. 17 – failed to sell for £150.

The 1839 Issue

- No. 342 Joseph Cannock, Solicitor of Newent.
- No. 343 Joseph Cannock, as above.
- No. 528 Hubert Edy, Solicitor of Ledbury. Spink & Son, Auction, London Nov. 17.
- No. 530 Hubert Edy, Solicitor of Ledbury.
- No. 2002 Thomas Baylis, Tanner, Ledbury. Spink & Son, Auction, London Nov. 17

One un-issued 1839 share certificate is known to exist.

* These share certificates are deposited at Hereford Record Office.



nature watch

Ginny Birkett writes:

On Easter Sunday I joined the Dymock wild daffodil walk and we took the canal side path towards the northern portal of the Oxenhall Tunnel.

The famous blooms were everywhere delighting us all. What a great attraction to the canal when it is restored!

» GB



The Dymock walk is featured in this H&G CT Walk leaflet.

As well as the golden daffodils there was vivid scarlet elfcup fungus (right).



The Over Basin Swans

Monica Hamer writes:

Well the last two cygnets have gone and not by choice, I may add.

At this time of year remaining cygnets are encouraged to distance themselves from their parents. At first, the cygnets receive gentle pecking and are made to spend most of the time on their own. It's the adults way of saying 'it's time to leave'. If they refuse to go, the pecking gets a lot worse and apparently the male swan will eventually kill their offspring if they insist on staying.

So Sam was no exception. He became more aggressive by the day and eventually



Farewell to the two adult cygnets.

the cygnets were not allowed on the canal at all; but still they refused to leave. His aggression had got so bad that on the 10 February. I decided to ring Swan Rescue for advice. They helpfully suggested that they

come to Over and view the situation. The next day they came and decided the cygnets were at risk and should be rescued from Sam. It was very distressing to see them go this way but at least we know they are safe.

With the cygnets gone, Sam has mellowed and Sadie has been spotted making her nest once again. Hopefully we will have a new family come spring and a new story to tell.

» MH

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Our model boaters play their part in maintaining the Basin at Over by keeping the weed at bay for their small craft. David writes:

At the time of starting this article for *The Wharfinger* it is once again bitterly cold but not yet cold enough to cause the Canal to freeze over, which is just as well as earlier this week a large number of Boat Club members turned out, and under the watchful eye of John Hamer, busily stuffed plastic mesh sacks, made by member Derek Young, with barley straw obtained by H&GCT. These were then "sewn up" with cable ties and lowered into the Canal at pre-pegged locations so that, we hope, we will control the algae that was such a nuisance last year. This is a natural method of algae control that we use, essential as for the wildlife and also any overflow from the Canal ends up in the River Severn and avoids ecological damage.



Barley straw bags.

Some readers may wonder why in this age of anti-plastic we used such material, there is a very good reason. The natural mesh that we used previously rotted and dumped the old straw into the canal which is not a good idea. We hope this year that towards autumn time we will be able to remove the intact bags from the canal remove the straw from them and dispose of it, and then hopefully re-use the bags.

The photos show the bags as they were put into the Canal, they have now sunk so are out of sight but we hope working hard to keep the Canal clear of algae.



David Exell

Canal/River Barge

Your scribe has just finished a model of a Canal/River Barge. A full-sized one would navigate the Severn but not a narrow canal. Such a vessel would carry 60 tons with just a crew of two! Sadly these boats are no longer used as everything seems to go by road/rail and in a container. In Europe, on the Rhine they have container barges that travel a new canal built to join up with the Danube and then all the way to the Black Sea - these vessels are huge.

»» DE



Ted Tedaldi

Yachts are very popular with the club members.

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.

News from the Friends of National Waterways Museum Gloucester



Chris Witts

Above: Queen Bodicea 2 sails past the warehouses at Gloucester Docks



Left: The restored barge, Sabrina 5 moored by the Museum. She has now been fitted with a pedestrian-friendly ramp.

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Norman Mitchell writes

The new entrance to the Museum is now completed offering a roomy, welcoming space to visitors.

The refreshments area has expanded in the glazed extension so visitors can sup a coffee or tea at any time they are in the building.

Sabrina 5, the restored barge, has now been fitted with a pedestrian friendly ramp allowing easy access to the stairs or lift to get down to the exhibition/meeting space. This space will be used also for education projects and events.

Boat trips continue to be available on "Queen Boadicea 2" and tickets are available from the desk in the Museum shop.

» **NM** Chairman FGWM



The osier weaving course is held in Rudford Village Hall.

Osier weaving *weavers...*

by Pat March

On a damp, grey Good Friday we met at Over on the bank of the River Leaddon and cut the osiers under the informative guidance of Mike Bowden, who told us about the different varieties of willow and their possible historical use on Vineyard Hill.

Having each selected about 20 withies, it was time to de-camp to the warm, dry Rudford Village Hall, where we six "students" learned how to make a garden "wigwam" from willow. Cathy Wallace, aided by her colleague Elaine and with the help of coffee and chocolate cake, tutored us in intertwining the pairs of flexible withies around 12 uprights. These were stabilized in an upturned fruit box (it not being practical to work outside) and tied off in individual ways, to give a stable structure for clematis, sweet peas or similar, to hopefully climb later this year.

The process was great fun and next time a similar course is on offer I recommend you to join in.

» **PM**

Pat's willow wigwam takes pride of place in the gardens of The Wharf House





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Pete tells us of the popularity of the boating sessions at Over Basin.

03042018 – This number represents the date I wrote this article. It may not mean much to you reading this, no I've not lost the plot, (*just yet*). If you add the digits together it denotes the number of clients that attend our boating sessions at Over Basin every week on a Tuesday since January – **18**, yes eighteen to date! To me, this shows that we are doing something right, but I must say a big thanks to the volunteers who turn up every week and make things happen! I would like to think it's not just for my cake, but I was challenged by some clients when I came back from a break, "why was there no cake last week?"

This year I have had more groups ask if I still do sailing? This would mean asking for

more days sailing, but we would need more volunteers to assist us.

(I do make nice cake if that encourages you to come and help?)

May will see us pirates taking part in the 10th Big Health Check and Social Care Open Day. This is a great day out even if you are not disabled. Come to say hello, no collecting buckets or cake!

Well, I hope that we will see you at Over Basin on a Tuesday 11am – 14pm or at the Big Health Check day. **»» PB**

Sailing4Disabled meets every Tuesday at Over Canal Basin from 11.00 to 14.00.

It is open to everyone – whether they have a disability or not. Contact: Pete (Long Gone Silver) Bisson: on 07913 015018 • peterwb49@hotmail.com • www.sailing4disabled.org.uk

This Wheelyboat is 60ft smaller than my boat, but still as hard to manoeuvre! Wheelyboat driven by Martin Turner at Over Basin.



Pete Bisson

Copy deadline for the next Wharfinger
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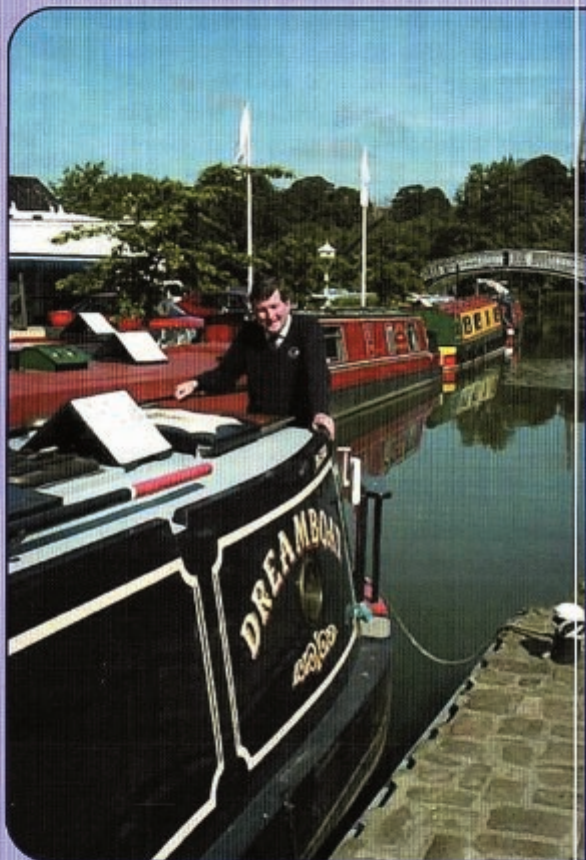
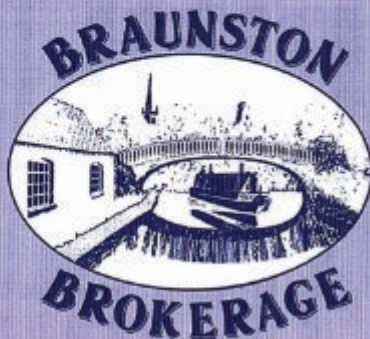
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Contact details...

Vaughan Welch – Chairman

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Roger Holmes – Treasurer

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David Penny – Commercial & Technical Director

01452 332 900 lpdt@h-g-canal.org.uk

Nigel Jefferies – Membership Secretary

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01432 850 661 membership@h-g-canal.org.uk

Janet Moul – Mail Order Sales & Promotion

18, Coningsby Court, Coningsby Street, Hereford, HR1 2DF
01432 264 366 mailorder@h-g-canal.org.uk

Maggie Jones – The Wharfinger Editor/ Sales & Promotion

01452 618 010 editor@h-g-canal.org

Caroline Jones – Fund Raising

01594 332 900 fundraising@h-g-canal.org.uk

Caroline Buffery – Company Secretary

01452 332 900 co.secretary@h-g-canal.org.uk

Tony Sellwood – Major Projects – Operations Director

01452 830 586 majorprojects@h-g-canal.org.uk

Wilf Jones – Restoration and Maintenance

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01452 522 648 overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk

Brian Fox – Oxenhall Site Leader

01432 358 628 oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

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01684 293 930 malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Chris High – Yarkhill Site Leader

01568 615 575 yarkhill@h-g-canal.org.uk

Legal & Project Development Team

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

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Registered Office: The Wharf House, Over Canal Basin, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB.

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.

Want to join?

Please support our voluntary work by becoming a Member of the H&G CT. A membership form is available online or from The Wharf House.

H&G CT UK Membership Rates

	Annual	Life
Individual	£10	£200
Joint/Family	£15	£300
Senior Citizen	£7.50	£115
Joint Senior Citizen	£10	£150
Corporate	£25	£500

PLEASE NOTE: All subscriptions and donations are treated as being made under the Gift Aid scheme unless you state that you do not wish us to do this. Payment made by Standing Order greatly assists us and payment remains under your control. All payments to:

H&G CT, 6, Castle Street, Hereford, HR1 2NL

Visit our websites:



www.h-g-canal.org.uk

THE WHARF HOUSE

www.thewharfhouse.co.uk

MALSWICK HOUSE

www.malswickhouse.co.uk



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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.

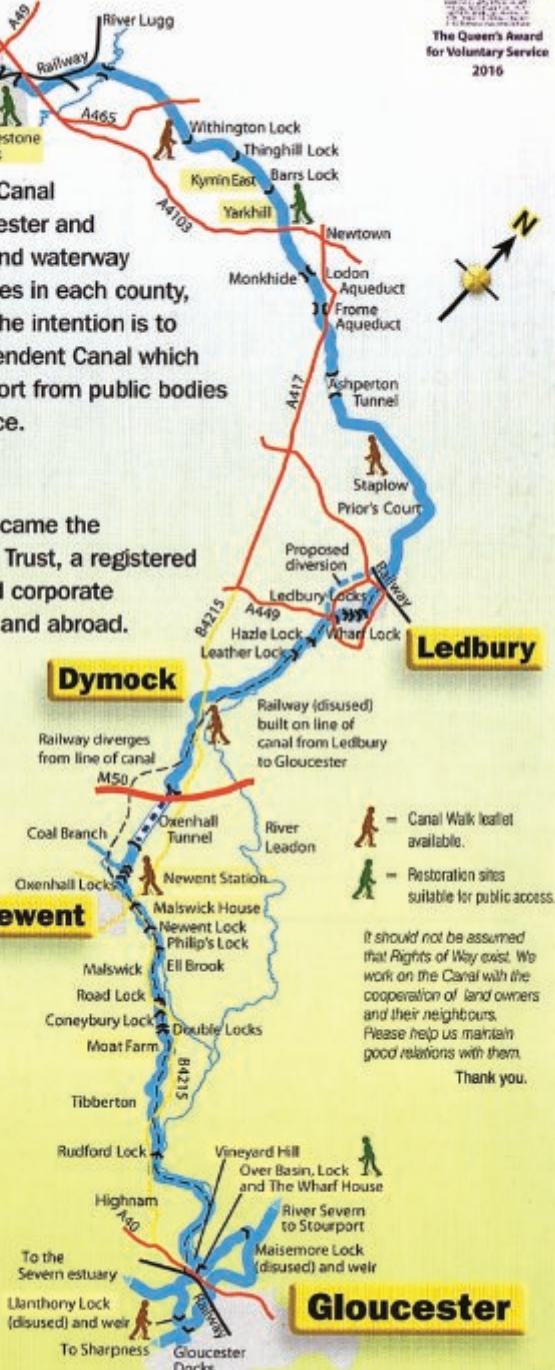
The original Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal



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.

Newent

Dymock

Ledbury



-  = 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

Gloucester Quays

Experience More

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