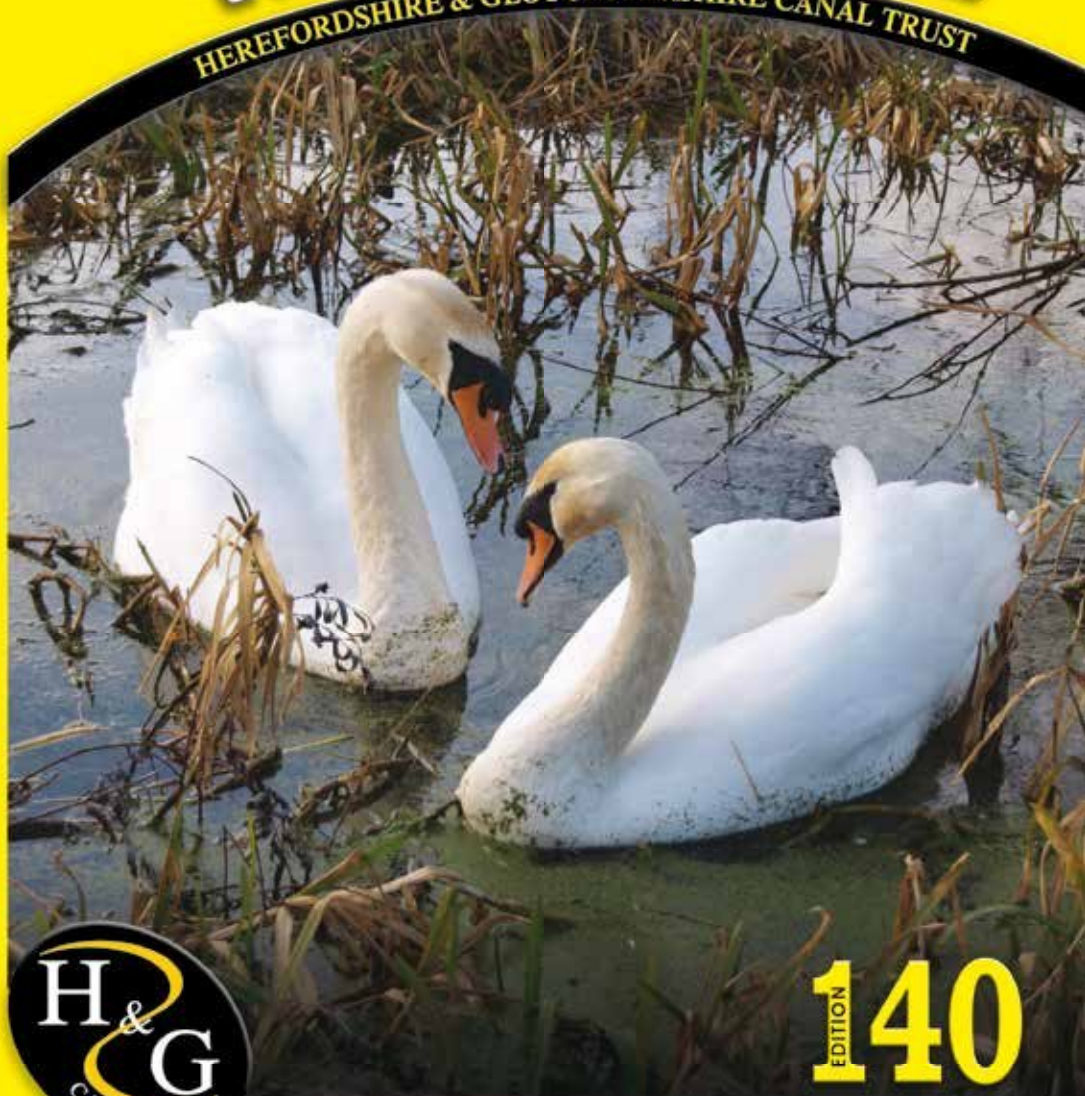


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Summer 2019

# The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



140  
EDITION

REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER

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## Who does what? ...

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

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*Janet Moulton*

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**Chairman:** Vaughan Welch

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**Membership Trustee:** Nigel Jefferies

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**Strategy Chair:** Ed Helps

**Company Secretary:** Philip Marshall

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Hereford Roving Team: *John Pritchard*

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Yarkhill: *Chris High*

Oxenhall: *Brian Fox, Geoff Hopper*

Over and Vineyard Hill: *Andy Fowler*

### Major Projects Teams

Malswick Project: *Paul Henshaw, Tony Sellwood*

Newent Station Project: *Brian Fox, David*

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### H&G Canal Sales & Promotion

Hereford Roving Team: *Janet Moulton, Barbara Moses, Ray Moses, Penny Shetliffe, Pat Skeet, Heather Worth*

Gloucester Roving Team: *Ginny Birkett,*

### The Wharfinger

Editor: *Ralph Barber*

Design/Production: *Ralph Barber*

Proofreading: *Becca Moulton, Janet Moulton, Debbie Barber*

Advertising: *Ginny Birkett* Distribution: *Janet Moulton*

Digital Photo Library: *Colin Dymott*

### Website Development

Team Leader: *Ralph Barber*

Web Master: *Nick Dymott,*

Committee: *Ted Beagles*

### Social Events

Organiser: *Janet Moulton*, Support: *Nigel Jefferies, Stephen and Gillian Chowns*

### Talks and Walks

Co-ordinator: *Nigel Jefferies, Dick Skeet*

### The Wharf House Company Limited

Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB. 01452 332 900

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

Directors: *John Kilpatrick – Chair, Philip Marshall – Finance, Ralph Barber, Eamonn McGurk, Accounts Examiners: Griffiths Marshall, Gloucester*

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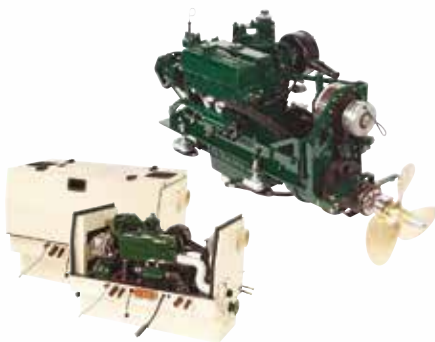


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# Changes

Driving change is fun, being driven by change is not. This is a quote I heard many years ago and has stuck with me over time. The reason I mention this is that in this version of the Wharfinger you will see a number of changes. Some I have driven and some that have been pushed upon me.

Firstly, I am sorry to tell you about the change of editor of the Wharfinger. Maggie Jones has decided to move on to new challenges and in doing so is leaving the Wharfinger editing to someone else - for this edition me. Further thanks to Maggie can be found with in this edition.

In the last edition of the Wharfinger I highlighted the changes that the Board of Trustees are undertaking. With Maggie moving on and some new people being co-opted to the board further changes are occurring. Further details of who's who can be found on page 8.

Personally, I am now going to be driving the communication from the Board of Trustees. This will include editor of the Wharfinger - unless I can find a person willing to do the role. You do not have to be a Trustee to be editor. Interested? see the situations vacant page to details. Within the role of Communications I will also be working with our webmaster to push out the new web site that Maggie had done so much with before moving on.

So, what about the Strategy role? The board are going to drive this forward as a working group. This will enable the team to be board members, volunteers and other interested people to help develop a rolling strategy for the rebuilding of the canal.

We have also learnt the sad news

that Cliff Penny has passed away. As you know Cliff was a past chairman and editor of this magazine. Another past chairman, Dick Skeet has written an article on Cliff's involvement in the Trust over the many years. Having myself served on the same board as Cliff I found his focus on the re-building of the canal a positive contribution leading to what has made the trust what it is today.

With most of the board having served as board members for less than a year it has been a very busy time for us all. It has also given us a chance to look at a fresh approach to a number of areas.

I have already mentioned the changes with the approach on Strategy and Communication. As reported in the last edition of the Wharfinger we have a summer AGM again. The details of this and the short annual report (as it has only been 6 months since the last AGM in December 2018) can be found starting on page 9.

With such a new board of Trustees, whilst the experience is wide and varied, we still need to build a stronger and wider Board and a support team for the Trust to move forward to re-build the canal.

Within the situation vacant page, page 21 you will see a number of areas that we need support. Of course we still need people willing to support each site.

Finally, I want to wish Maggie all the best as having only done one edition of the Wharfinger, I am now well aware of all the work involved!

Thank you Maggie.

*Ralph*



## **THE HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST** **2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

***will be held on Thursday 27th June 2019 at 7.30pm  
at Ledbury Community Hall,  
Lawnside Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2AE  
(This meeting is open to Member's only.)***

### **AGENDA**

Copies of the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet 2018-19 will be available at the AGM. A pdf of the complete accounts can be emailed to you on request to [accounts@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:accounts@h-g-canal.org.uk).

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Approval of minutes of both parts of the 2018 AGM, copies of which will be available at the meeting**
- 4. Chairman's remarks**
- 5. To receive the report of the Trustees and financial statements for the year ending 28 February 2019.**
- 6. To approve the appointment of an Independent Examiner of all the Trust's accounts**
- 7. Trustees standing down by rotation and re-election**
- 8. To elect nominations of new Trustees**
- 9. Close of formal business, and short break**
- 10. Open discussion forum**



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# Annual report for the year ending 28 February 2019

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

It replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society launched in 1983. This is also the report of The Wharf House Company Limited no. 4627931, the wholly owned subsidiary, all profits from which are used for the promotion and restoration of the Canal. Registered office for both companies: The Wharf House, Horseshoe Drive, Over, Gloucester GL2 8DB.

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

## Board of Trustees of H&G Canal Trust: year to 28 February 2019

Ralph Barber (from October 2019) Roger Holmes (until October 2019), Nigel Jefferies, Caroline Jones (until October 2018), Maggie Jones (until February 2019), John Kilpatrick (from October 2018), Philip Marshall (from October 2019) Eamonn McGurk, David Penny (until December 2018), Tony Sellwood (until August 2018), Vaughan Welch

## Board of The Wharf House Company Limited: year to 28 February 2019

Ralph Barber (from October 2018) John Kilpatrick (from October 2018), Philip Marshall (from October 2018) Eamonn McGurk, David Penny (until October 2018).

## The Board of Trustees:

In the eight months since the 2018 AGM last October the Trust has probably seen more changes than it had in any other inter-AGM period in the previous ten years. Mindful of the financial entanglement that existed between The Wharf House Company and The Trust following last year's AGM the Trustees agreed to transfer the Legal & Project Development role back into the core Trust activities w.e.f. the end of February 2019 (cont)



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## Annual report for the year ending 28 February 2019(cont)

This year's accounts will be the last where some of the restoration activities will be shown in The Wharf House accounts.

In the eight months since the 2018 AGM last October the Trust has probably seen more changes than it had in any other inter-AGM period in the previous ten years. Mindful of the financial entanglement that existed between The Wharf House Company and The Trust following last year's AGM the Trustees agreed to transfer the Legal & Project Development role back into the core Trust activities w.e.f. the end of February 2019 so this year's accounts will be the last where some of the restoration activities will be shown in The Wharf House accounts. The Wharf House Company will now concentrate on managing the Trust's interests in both the Wharf House and Malswick House, which was closed on a temporary basis at the end of December for financial reasons, some of which might well shortly be let to a Management Company. As you will see from the chronology of the Trustees one of the foundation Trustees David Penny decided to resign as both a Trustee and a Director of the Wharf House Company and is no longer involved with any of the Trust's activities.

Unfortunately more recently his father and another founding Trustee, Cliff Penny died in April and his funeral was held in Hereford on 15th May, a very sad loss and clearly our condolences go to his family; he contributed significantly to the success of the Trust and this was recognized with a presentation made to him at last year's AGM in October.

Regrettably earlier this year Maggie Jones decided to resign and subsequently, because of his other activities, I would like to say a personal thank you to David and Maggie for all they have done for the Trust over the years.

In the meantime restoration continues apace and, elsewhere in this report, you will see updates from the sites that are currently being worked on. Recently discussions have taken place with other property owners along the route and we hope to shortly be able to announce new and resurrected sites where previously we have not been able to work or had been asked to cease work because of historic political reasons.

Finally I would like to say a personal thank you to each and every one of you for the work you have done for the Trust over the last 12 months whether you are a member or not and also to Wells Fargo Ltd. who have started us on the road of encompassing corporate volunteering into the project by spending some time helping Tony with his project at Malswick.

Vaughan Welch,  
Chairman



# AGM Information

Prior notice of any questions would be welcomed ideally via website: [H-G-Canal.org.uk](http://H-G-Canal.org.uk) / Contact Us thereby enabling a more comprehensive response to be given at the meeting

## Appointment of Trustees:

The H&G Canal Trust Memorandum and Articles of Association allows up to 10 Trustees to be appointed. One third of the Trustees are required to stand down annually in rotation, but can apply for re-election. Potential new Trustees are elected at the AGM. The maximum number of Trustees is ten.

Nomination forms: obtainable from the Company Secretary, are required to be completed and returned in accordance with the Articles of Association which are available on the Trust's website.

New Trustees are given an induction to the work of the Trust and information they need to fulfil their roles, which includes information about the role of Trustees and charity law and their liabilities.

Proxy Votes: A member may appoint a proxy to vote who must be someone entitled to vote. Proxy forms are available from the Company Secretary via contact us on our website [h-g-canal.org.uk](http://h-g-canal.org.uk). and must be returned at least 2 working days prior to the start of the AGM.

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## Accounts for the Trust and Wharf House Co Ltd (TWHL)

The books and records for both companies have gone to Griffiths Marshall, for an independent review for the Trust and accounts preparation for TWHL. They should be viewable by members on the Trust website prior to the AGM.

Please would you look on the website and print your copies off as you require and bring them to the AGM. If you would like a printed or emailed copy sent please let Philip Marshall, the Treasurer/Company Secretary, know either by emailing to [finance@g-canal.org.uk](mailto:finance@g-canal.org.uk) or writing to him at Gatwick Farm House, Stantway Lane, Westbury on Severn, Glos GL14 1QG.

We are not sending all members copies of the accounts for both companies partly because many members may not require them and partly because of the considerable cost to the Trust of so doing.

## Onto 2019

Regrettably early in the new financial year Roger Holmes resigned. I would like to say a personal thank you to Roger for all he has done for the Trust over the years.

In the meantime restoration continues apace and, elsewhere in this issue of the Wharfinger you will see updates from the sites that are currently being worked on. Recently discussions have taken place with other property owners along the route and we hope to shortly be able to announce new and resurrected sites where previously we have not been able to work or had been asked to cease work because of historic political reasons.

This new enthusiasm has seen three co-options onto the Board of Trustees who had brought experience and additional skills to the Board.

Debbie Barber has taken on the role of Fund Raiser and will be working on making bids to funding bodies to support the restoration.

Ed Helps was for many years on the Board of the Droitwich Canals Trust which I chaired towards the end of the project that saw the canal finally reopen in the early part of this decade so his experience in that field together with his boating business skills will be invaluable to the Trust.

Tony Sellwood came back on to the board who as many of you will know has been working with Paul Henshaw on the Malswick project.

All three will be looking for your support to formally elect them to the Board at the AGM.

Volunteering for the Trust does not necessarily involve becoming a Trustee and there are many roles that do not involve physical work that are key to the Trust's success and following the departure of Cal Buffery, who was our Company secretary for several years, earlier this year we are urgently looking for someone who might have a spare day a week to do the administrative work, further details can be found on page 21 of this Wharfinger.

Vaughan Welch,  
Chairman

# Cliff Penny Remembered

In April, we sadly learned that one of our Honorary Life Presidents died.

*Dirk Skeet remembers his life and involvement in the Trust:*

When looking back over the history of some organisations it isn't always possible to single out one individual who stands out above all the rest. For the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust it is easy.

Cliff Penny became Chairman of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Society in 1990.



**Cliff Penny**

Officially at least, this had the simple aim of reminding people that there once was a canal in this part of the world by cleaning out a couple of short sections and putting nice plaques on a few bridges and surviving buildings. Even in 1990 Cliff had other ideas. It was under his leadership that the Society matured and developed into a charitable trust with the ambitious aim of linking these two Cathedral cities by canal once again. It took someone very special to convince people that this idea was anything more than a pipe dream. Cliff's vision was of a canal that one day would be of immense benefit to the people of two counties, particularly Herefordshire, the only county in England where at present you can't spend a night on a boat!

More than anyone else before or since, Cliff established the ethos of the Society and Trust, embodying policies of excellence in all that we try to do, sustainability for the future, the immeasurable value of willing volunteers and the recognition that waterways are for everyone – not just for people on boats. He established the "Hereford and Gloucester" brand with its instantly recognisable yellow and black house colours. Over the seven years of his chairmanship the membership tripled. One of the many things for which he will be remembered was the way everyone was thanked for whatever they contributed to the Society and Trust, however small it might have been. He never took other peoples' efforts for granted but went out of his way to ensure that all the volunteers really felt appreciated.

Only a year after he became Chairman the Department of Transport published proposals for an eastern bypass of Hereford across the Lugg Meadows which cut across the line of the canal and made no provision for the canal. At the Public Enquiry Cliff prepared and presented a formal Proof of Evidence which exposed significant errors in the Department's plans and costings.

The Inspector found in favour of the Trust and ordered that provision for the canal be made at the Department's expense. The bypass was never built but the vital point had been made. This victory was won long before the rebuilding of the canal was incorporated into any local authority plans, but from that point onwards the canal had to be taken seriously.

Continue on next page

## *Cliff Penny Remembered continued*

It was Cliff who worked so hard to ensure that the line of the canal and the essential diversions were protected from adverse development, opposing and challenging where necessary, but also working with planners and developers to produce proposals which benefited everyone whenever this was possible. All of this is 'backroom stuff', unseen by most of our members but vital to the future of the canal.

Much more obvious to everyone was the development of the Wharfinger under Cliff's editorship for so many years. Here again, excellence was the keynote – some contributors might say to the point of obsession! Everything had to be just right – spelling, grammar, and punctuation all came under his magnifying glass while at the same time establishing a steady income from advertisers and negotiating great deals with the printers. Never so much as a typo! Today the Wharfinger is established as one of the most admired house magazines of any restoration group.

Although Cliff's ill health in recent years severely restricted his ability to be the major force he had been in the past, his interest never waned and he fully deserved being appointed an Honorary Life President of the Trust in 2018. In the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral is a simple monument to Sir Christopher Wren. The Latin is usually translated as "Reader, if you seek his memorial - look around you". Cliff's memorial is still a good way off, but when the first boat reaches the Hereford Basin I hope people will remember who it was, probably more than anyone else, that enabled it to get there.

## Other people moving on *Maggie Jones*

Maggie has been a member of the Trust for a number of years. She worked on the Wharfinger since 2001 - when Cliff was in the editor's seat. Maggie's skill in graphic design helped bring about changes e.g. such as the yellow banner on the front page, and she continued all the work in editing the Wharfinger when Cliff handed over. She also produced all the graphics for the sales and information banners, the walks leaflets and a lot of other graphics that you see around the Trust productions, especially the map. Her skills will be greatly missed.

As well as editor of the Wharfinger, Maggie was a Trustee who was always thinking of the volunteers that she worked with – whether on a number of sites, including the management of Over, or supporting all the Sales stands at shows around Gloucester. All the best Maggie.

*Ralph*

## Other people moving on *Roger Holmes*

Roger could always be seen at the Trust Social evenings. With his support of the canals across the UK and his membership of the IWA he joined the Trust board in 2017.

He took on the role of Treasurer and working with past and current members he helped drive the changes that are now in place. In April he decided to resign from the board to concentrate on new challenges. All the best, Roger

*Ralph*

# Ongoing projects

## Malswick - New Bridge Grand Opening

*Paul Henshaw writes:*

Friday 24th May 2019 saw the Grand Opening of the New Bridge at Okle Clifford Farm. This was the culmination of 18 months hard work by the volunteers of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust.

The opening was attended by representatives of the Gloucester Charities Trust, who are landlords of Okle Clifford Farm, by Hartpury College who are the tenants and by The Canal Trust. John Uffold who acts as the Land Agent for the Gloucester Charities Trust made his opening remarks outlining the success of the 3 way partnership which resulted in the renovation of 2 brick built bridges and the construction of a new bridge in return for land being transferred to the Canal Trust.

There then was a symbolic cutting of 3 ribbons representing each of the parties. Lee Hensley cut the first ribbon for the GCT, followed by Vaughan Welch cutting the second ribbon for the Canal Trust and the final ribbon was cut by Andrew Eastabrook, the Farm Manager, on behalf of Hartpury College.

The opening ceremony was then followed by tea and cakes at the Farm.



Opening remarks by John Uffold



Lee Hensley cutting the tape for the GCT



Vaughan Welch cutting the tape for The Canal Trust



Andrew Eastabrook Cutting the tape for Hartpury College



John Uffold  
Andrew Eastabrook  
Lee Hensley  
Vaughan Welch and Trustees of the GCT

Photos all taken by R Ward



# Malswick (cont)

We also dug slit trenches across the original canal in the west woodland. This revealed the remains of fresh water muscles – a clear indicator of the bottom of the old canal. Further slit trenches along the route revealed a solid bed of red clay below the 400mm layer of top soil – good news indeed, as it is likely that the red clay will hold water.



*Tony and Martyn digging the slit trench.  
Picture by P Henshaw*



*The layer of red clay.  
Picture by P Henshaw*



*Yep, It's definitely a hole. Picture by P Henshaw*

We have also been preparing plans for a ditch crossing point for the Gloucester Charities Trust. Engineering drawings have been produced and the various approvals and consents have been obtained. Work will commence in June.



*Picture by A McBride*

And finally during the “quieter moments” the Malswick team have been adding to our log pile at the Malswick Site.

Yes we have Logs for Sale at very reasonable prices. Buy now to avoid disappointment.

If you feel you would like to help on Tuesdays or you would like to buy logs please contact Paul Henshaw on 01684 293930

Please note that the site will not be open to the general public until the canal has been formally completed.



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# Site News *roundup!*

## *Ted Beagles*

It had been apparent for some time towards the end of last year that Ted was having a bit of bother with his mobility.

However, it came as a complete "bolt from the blue" when, following his return from a break in New Zealand, he calmly announced to the Over volunteers that he was standing down as Site Leader - with immediate effect!

Since that day in February, Ted's difficulties seemed to increase and after a couple of tumbles, he was admitted to hospital in early April. The good news is that there appears to be a diagnosis of his problems and that he is now back at home, having already started treatment. The slightly less good news is that recovery is likely to be a slow process - in Ted's words "I'm in for the long haul"

Nevertheless, Ted has expressed an intention to get back to Over, if only for a cup of tea and a chat, as soon as he feels able.

We all wish him the very best in his recovery and Ted - your special 'music' mug is safely stored away ready for the next time it needs to be filled.

We all hope that will not be too long.

Editor: Thank you to Andy for the above about Ted who apart from stepping down as site leader for Over is also going to step down from his other roles while he recovers.

## *All change at Over*

The need to find a new Site Leader for Over, coming at a time when there have been major changes and restructuring within the Board of Trustees, and a completely new arrangement in the operation of The Wharf House, has resulted in the normal routines of the Over Site being disturbed to say the very least.

As the new Site Leader, I still feel somewhat unprepared for the responsibility but hopefully will find my way into the role as time moves on. However, I must thank the volunteers at Over for their tolerance and support while we try to put in place some of the procedures that are required and to establish good working relationships with the Board and with our neighbours

As a consequence, this round-up of current progress at the site is fairly brief and is lacking any pictures, but maybe this will improve for the next edition.

### **Stuart Pump**

The diesel driven pump used to maintain water levels in the canal has been serviced during the winter and has now been returned to the bank of the river Leadon. The suction pipe needs to be re-positioned into the river and then pumping can commence.

The water level in the canal has started to drop in recent weeks so more water will soon become a necessity.

### **Cycle cave roof**

Some progress has been made, with the safety railing completed and approved. The next task is to start laying the bricks to form the arch, which will commence when suitable bricklayers can be arranged.

## **Heritage Boats**

Renton is now operating well, and is being used to run up and down the canal in an effort to keep the channel along Vineyard Hill open and prevent the bulrushes from taking over completely

Alder had the starter motor overhauled early in the year, but it was then discovered that the battery was not being charged. Checks indicated that the dynamo (the engine too old for alternators) was not functioning. Faulty brushes were the cause and new brushes together with new shaft bearings have been fitted.

The dynamo is now waiting to be replaced on the engine.

Susie E, our electric powered boat, proved to be very difficult to charge last year. Thanks to David Grove of Groves Batteries, the four large batteries on the boat have been tested and three have been found faulty. Alternative replacements are being investigated.

All the boats are in need of lifting out for hull maintenance and blacking. At the present, we are waiting to see what arrangements can be made, and looking at options for lifting boats in rotation or lifting all boats at one time. There are pro's and con's for each option and further consideration and discussion on this issue is needed before plans are drawn up.

## **Site maintenance**

A considerable amount of time has been spent recently in tidying the Car Park and grounds around The Wharf House, prior to the new occupant taking charge. It remains to be seen whether under future arrangements, this will still be a task for the volunteers or whether it will be the responsibility of the tenant.

Elsewhere around the site, the spring flowers have been quite spectacular, the grass is mown and overall the site is beginning to look quite smart.

*Andy*

## ***The Wharf House***

Changes are occurring in the Wharf House. As in the last edition of the Wharfinger, David Penny mentioned that he was leaving the Trust both as a volunteer and a trustee.

The Wharf House board has worked with a number of potential companies to take over the operation of the Wharf House so the trustees can focus on the re-building of the canal not running a small hotel business.

The board have reduced the companies down to one and have the approval of the full board of the canal trust to create a lease agreement for the Wharf House board to lease the Wharf House to a company for an income per year, increasing each year and other benefits that will enable more focus on the re-building of the canal. Further details will be available at the AGM.

# Oxenhall & Newent

*Brian Fox Reports:*

*The team at Oxenhall is now back to full strength with 10 volunteers turning up sometimes.*

During the winter months work has concentrated around tree and hedge maintenance with pollarding of old willow trees being the prime task. Most of our trees are protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs) so we have to apply for the necessary permissions before any work is commenced and it is always completed by the end of February to allow the birds to get on with nesting. Pollarding is the recognised way of looking after willows as if left then branches become too big and eventually break off. There is a public footpath running past the work in progress and it is quite common for us to answer questions from walkers and explain exactly what we are doing and why it is necessary. Signs are also put up explaining what we are doing but there are still some people, unfortunately, who contact the relevant authorities complaining that we are decimating the countryside.

Consequently there have been visits from environmental officers and even the police but they immediately recognise that everything we do is perfectly legitimate and are happy for us to continue.

Repairs to the wing wall below the lock are now well in hand.

Time  
for a  
break.  
Picture  
by B Fox



A trench has been dug across the dam enabling us to lower the water level by at least 2 feet and this has now given easier access to the wall foundations. The reeds which were growing in the water right up to the wall were largely removed by the team from Wells Fargo last year and this operation has now been completed. There are still more reeds further along the bank but there is no urgency to remove these. It can now be seen that the wall foundations are not deep enough and in some places the wall is about to collapse. A total rebuild will be necessary and we are now going through what remains of the stone left over from the aqueduct and lock restoration to see if we have sufficient suitable stone available.

Wild  
garlic  
and Ell  
Brook  
along  
the  
permissi  
ve path.  
Picture  
by  
B Fox.





# Moat Farm

Work at the Moat Farm site has slowed down over this winter so that volunteers could concentrate their efforts on the Malswick project. However, the plan is to visit Moat Farm about once a month to mow and cut back any unwanted growth.

The photographs show how well the west end of the canal section remains clear and to a good depth. The section to the east quickly becomes reedy; the sooner we get boats on it the better!

The small owl box that was put up 18 months ago shows signs of some activity. The main circular hole has small marks around it indicating that a bird has probably been using it. Despite watching the box for some time we saw no birds coming or going - perhaps they were asleep.





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# Dymock

The lake at Dymock is a pleasure to walk around, most of the trees that were planted have come into leaf and, earlier in the season, the native daffodils that were painstakingly replanted to the foot of the lake have put on a fine display.

Ducks, geese and swans have visited the lake over the winter although only the ducks have been seen recently.

Water levels have held up well over the winter thanks to some heavy rain showers and the pump that is in operation for part of the day. If the water level falls over the summer the pump will be used for a longer time.



## Yarkhill

Following an extremely good effort by the Team digging stumps over a number of months we turned our attention to site maintenance finishing with a couple of fires to burn the roots and chippings.

In February we had a man with a tractor in to cut the towpath hedge and canal bank. This was a reduced cut from that which we had last year as water in the canal made it impossible for the tractor to gain access to the canal bottom and wild side bank.

With spring now with us its back to maintenance with mowing being a regular task.

On one visit we were presented with a large wind blown tree down across the access the farmer kindly leaves for us.

So it was saws, loppers and chainsaw work for 3 or 4 weeks plus of course moving the brush to a suitable fire site and burning it.

*Would you like to get involved?*

Your help will be most welcome on any of our sites, please contact for further details:

### **Hereford Roving Team**

Thursdays

John Pritchard 01432 272972,  
hereford@h-g-canal.org.uk

### **Yarkhill** – Thursdays

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



A bit of hedge trimming.  
Picture by C High



The  
blockage.

site

All tidy. Pictures  
by C High



### **Oxenhall/ Newent Station**

Tuesdays

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

### **Malswick** – Tuesdays

Paul Henshaw

01684 293 930

malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

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

Wednesdays

Andy Folwer

overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk





## H&GCT Volunteer Opportunities



### **Administration support.**

We need help in operating the Trust. It is surprising how many bills we both send out and have to pay.

We need someone to help create the bills, track them and ensure any invoices we need to pay are done. While the role can be done from home, some visits to the Trust Office will be required to pick up post and complete any filing that is required.

The person should have basic office skills and be computer literate. Are you interested? – if so please contact Philip Marshal for further details. Email: [finance@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:finance@h-g-canal.org.uk)



### **Health and safety Officer.**

The Trust is looking for a willing qualified volunteer with NEBOSH accreditation (the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health). He or she should have experience in practical construction work. Being a key role, this will involve working directly with the Board of Trustees to maintain and improve our existing arrangements for managing all aspects of Health & Safety within the Trust. Are you interested? – if so please contact Vaughan Welch on [chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk) who can tell you more.

*Do you want to volunteer for the trust in a non-physical capacity?*

A part from the roles mentioned here and the typical roles required on our sites. We need people to help support the sales teams See page 23 for the days they are out and about telling the public about the Trust.

The social evenings are always looking for interesting speakers on any subject that is suitable. So, if you have an interest in something that you can talk about, show a few slides on for about an hour we would like to hear from you. Social evenings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month. see page 24 for further details.

Interested in spreading the word about the Trust and the canal at other talks? We need people to support the speaker circuit that has developed over the years. Please contact Nigel who can tell you more. Email: [membership@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:membership@h-g-canal.org.uk)

Interested in what is occurring in your area. Planning applications that are coming in to your local council. Could you help the Trust ensure that planning applications do not impact the canal. Please contact [information@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:information@h-g-canal.org.uk) for further details.

Would like to help with rolling out our new website. Both prior and then keeping it up to date with news items that can be published both on the web site and in the Wharfinger. Please contact the editor on [editor@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:editor@h-g-canal.org.uk)



# IWA Parliamentarian of the Year Reception

On Monday 13th May the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) made its annual Parliamentarian of the Year Award in the House of Commons. Unlike previous year's events, when the presentation was made at a formal dinner, this year they decided to hold a reception in the riverside Pavilion and invited representatives from all the restoration projects to attend.

We had the privilege of having two invites, albeit at the last minute one person was unable to attend, and so as Chair I went alone to represent the Trust and witness the presentation made to Andrew Bridgen, Member of Parliament for North West Leicestershire, who was selected from a short list of around six MP's for all his unwavering support and assistance regarding many difficult issues that have arisen on the Ashby Canal restoration project, as well as helping the Canal & River Trust with other waterway matters in his constituency.

He was particularly commended for working with HS2 Ltd in regards to the proposed routing of the high-speed rail link and limiting its impact on the Ashby Canal. He was also thanked for his efforts in helping to overcome progress problems with Leicestershire County Council and his continuing work on issues with DEFRA and the Transport & Works Act Order (TWAo) and its possible transfer to the Ashby Canal Association

This was preceded by a presentation of IWA's recently published Waterways in Progress report that features the Wharf House and an announcement that they propose to make a £100,000 Waterways in Progress Grant, which of course we will be making a suitable bid for.

Many other restoration projects were represented and thus gave us the opportunity to network with our friends working on other restoration projects.

*Vaughan Welch*

## Stamps

Thank you to everyone who has sent Steve stamps recently and over the last few years. Please keep them coming they have increased the finances by thousands of pounds over the years.

Stamps can be taken to a social evening or other H&G CT event or sent direct to:

H&G Stamps  
C/O Steve Bence  
35 Lime Road  
Southam  
Warwickshire  
CV47 1EQ



*Please keep those  
stamps coming*

# Trust Stand Droitwich 2019

Our first outing of the season to the St Richard's Festival at Droitwich and Ray and Barbara arrived in Vines Park alongside the Droitwich Canal to set up our gazebo, displays and tables.

The slope made for an interesting day but luckily it kept dry until a few odd showers in the afternoon, but it was bitterly cold. Janet, Ginny and Nigel arrived to help spread the word on the H & G, sell draw tickets, books and other items to add to the funds.

Janet escaped and took a trip on the Pamela May 2, the new community boat on its first day of operation. It is fantastic, all electric, powered mainly by its solar panelled roof.

It took 38 years for the Droitwich's 7 miles to be re opened so we must continue with the H & G to join yet another canal to the River Sever.



***\*hear all about the electric powered Pamela May 2 at July's social***

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

by Janet Moulton

The Sales and Promotion teams are expecting to attend a number of events this year. Here is a proposed list, but it may be subject to change as the year goes on.

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



***This is the list for 2019....***

May 4	Droitwich Festival, Worcestershire
June 8	Ledbury Community Day
June 29–30	Historic Narrowboat Rally, Braunston, Northamptonshire
August 17	Tibberton Show
Sept. 7	Newent Onion Fair
Nov. 9	H&G CT Winter Bazaar, Ledbury



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## Social Evenings at the Royal Oak

7.30 for 8pm start

Much Marcle, HR8 2ND

Join us at our monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month (*except August and December*). 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!**

*Please note some changes of speakers due to ill health.*



**18 June**

### **Past, present and future – The Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway**

– **Richard Winstanley**

A success story in the restoration world.

**16 July**

**The re-building of the two canals that meet  
in Droitwich on Spa finished in 2011. So  
they started to run a Trip boat, this year  
they upgraded the boat, hear about how it  
all happened.**

– **Ralph Barber**



**20 Aug**

**Natter and Noggin – an informal evening back at the Royal Oak this year**

**17 Sept**

**TBC**

**15 Oct**

**Canals from the air in the 20's and 30's**

– **Tony Conder**

## Grand Holiday Draw 2019



HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

### GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW 2019

**1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE** **NARROW BOAT HOLIDAY for FOUR**  
ONE WEEK PRIOR TO 31/5/20 Excluding Bank Holidays. Donated by Black Prince Holidays

**2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE** **ONE DAY'S BOAT HIRE**  
To be taken in 2020, excluding Bank Holidays. Donated by Everything Canal Boats

**3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE** **ONE NIGHT DINNER BED & BREAKFAST for TWO**  
at The Wharf House, Over Wharf, Gloucester. Donated by The Wharf House Company

Prizepot: Mrs J. Moul, 18 Coningsby Court, Coningsby Street, Hereford, HR1 2DF  
Prize to be drawn at the September Social at Royal Oak, Much Marcle on September 17th 2019.  
Registered under the Gambling Act 2005.

TICKETS £1 each

### **Please Note:**

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

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

The prize winners will be drawn at the Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle, on 17 September 2019. Our thanks to **Black Prince Holidays**, **Everything Canal Boats** and **The Wharf House** for donating the holiday prizes – so every pound raised is a pound towards restoration of the Canal.

We appreciate that some recipients are not prepared to buy or sell draw tickets – we apologise but we do not have the resources to be selective in whom

receives tickets. There is no obligation to return unsold tickets. In order to save costs we have not included tickets in copies of **The Wharfinger** sent to Councillors, Local Authorities and businesses.

Again this year we have sent you two books of tickets to sell to family and friends. More books can be sent to you if required. Please contact Janet Moul on 01432 264 366 and she will be delighted to send you some tickets. ***Thank you.***

## *Kind donations*

A number of donations have come in recently and these were most gratefully received and will help towards our goal of restoring the canal from Hereford to Gloucester.

To learn more about the **H&GCT LAND FUND**  
go to **[www.h-g-canal.org.uk](http://www.h-g-canal.org.uk)** / 'About the Trust/Land Fund'

**IT ALL  
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## Canal Walks



H&G Canal Trust has produced a series of walk leaflets which explore various parts of the Hereford & Gloucester Canal.

**STAPLOW,  
WITHINGTON WHARF,  
DYMOK, LLANTHONY LOCK,  
OXENHALL and  
OVER BASIN**

30p per walk leaflet (Over Basin 40p)

*All proceeds towards the promotion and restoration of the Hereford & Gloucester Canal. available via the website.*

## Logs for sale from Malswick House

These logs are processed by our volunteers from the clearance work during canal restoration. the sale of them helps to supliment the cost of our work and so we hope you will support us in this venture.

The logs available are mainly ash and hawthorn.

Despite Malswick House being closed there are still logs for purchase at £50 per builders dumpy bag.



Sales can be arranged by contacting **Brian Fox** on **01432 358 628**  
**oxenhall@h-g-canal.co.uk**

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Spring/Summer has at last arrived at Over and we have been seeing more members turning out especially on our sailing days, Sunday and Wednesday sailing old and sometimes new boats that have been built over the winter months (I think some of them must hibernate during the colder part of the year) ice has not been a serious problem this winter and the hardier stalwarts have sailed most weeks.



The racers of course have turned out every other Friday to sail the Micromagic winter series, they are a hardy lot and keep going whatever the weather. The warm spell, sadly now gone was really pleasant with all the spring flowers along the canal bank, we have to watch out for Sam the Swan who is very protective of his partner on the Canal and we hope they succeed in raising another family, I think their new nest in the Canal itself is much safer than the one that flooded this time last year.

### 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. Ted Tedaldi*

Your scribe is building a new paddle powered boat for two reasons he likes historic paddle craft and the weed in the canal remains a nuisance. which we will shortly be trying to reduce with our weeding chain powered by the usual crew of ageing boaters. Paddle boats tend to run over the weed while propeller powered boats get wrapped in the stuff and we have a fair selection of various types down at Over.

**This year on June 30th we will be celebrating our 30 years as a model boat club and all Canal Trust members will be welcome to come along and join us, we will have a barbecue, things for children to do and our new small "Have a Go' tugs for anyone to captain.**





Hi everyone,

Well, the wheels of the system are once again starting to move forward, with a welcome request from your new editor Ralph, welcome from us.

The sun has brought a few new clients out to enjoy this wonderful venue at Over, a new one off venture was from Gloucestershire College a class of 10, 18 to 20-year-old from there Exploring Independence group, enjoying a session in water safety and team building, also learning that the canal is not that wide when trying to make a team of 5 others and a KataKanu go where you want it! They all came back and went home with a certificate to add to their year's course work.

I would like to congratulate Martyn, Vince, and Martin for gaining their RYA Level 2 Power Boat and Safety course, now I have a fight on my hands to get to that Wheelyboat as a driver.

Don't forget on the production of this Wharfinger, you can claim a free drink and trip on the Wheelyboat at Over Wharf Canal.



Pete Bisson

We have a funding account with GLOUCESTER LOTTERY as single ticket costs £1.00 if you nominate SAILING4DISABLED/ ROWINGPIRATES a 50% is added to our funding account and you could win £25,000

For more information call Pete 07913015018 ask for Long Gone Silver or come and pay us a visit on a Tuesday 11.00 to 14.00 at Over Wharf.

Email [peterwb49@hotmail.com](mailto:peterwb49@hotmail.com)  
[www.sailing4disabled.org.uk](http://www.sailing4disabled.org.uk)

Pete, Long Gone Silver or Jolly Skipper

## Would like a Larger Text version of the Wharfinger?

The Wharfinger is created in A5 format. It could be printed in A4 format. This would be 141% bigger than the standard size Wharfinger. If interested, please contact the editor via email [editor@h-g-canal](mailto:editor@h-g-canal)

# Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Navigation Company, Share Certificates

Following my article in the Spring, 2018 edition 135 of The Wharfinger, about my acquisition of an 1839 Second Issue share certificate, originally belonging to Hubert Edy, solicitor of Ledbury, one of our long-standing members and scripophile, James Dunn, reminded me that he has a lithographic plate which was used for printing the share certificates.

James acquired the plate about five years ago, from Mark Baldwin, who dealt in canal and railway memorabilia. It measures 380 x 250 x 40mm and is made from limestone. As can be seen from the illustration, the meticulous image is of course, in reverse. Lithography comes from the Greek lithos, meaning 'stone' and from graphein meaning 'to write'.

The process was invented in 1798 by Aloys Senefelder (1771 – 1834), a German playwright and engraver born in Prague, who used it for printing sheet music. The image is first applied to the stone using a greasy medium; such as crayon, lacquer or a special ink called tusche. A solution of nitric acid and gum arabic is then applied, producing a water-receptive non-printing area. A roller charged with oil-based ink to be applied to the surface, which will only adhere to the grease-receptive image areas. The paper is then placed on the plate and it is positioned under the press and pressure applied. The process is still used to produce text and certain fine art work, but nowadays the plate is often made from aluminium.

If you visit [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) on the Internet you can view a video of the process.

After the share certificate was printed, the number was recorded and the Canal Navigation Company embossed seal affixed; when it was sold the name and title or vocation of the subscriber, written in.

Nigel





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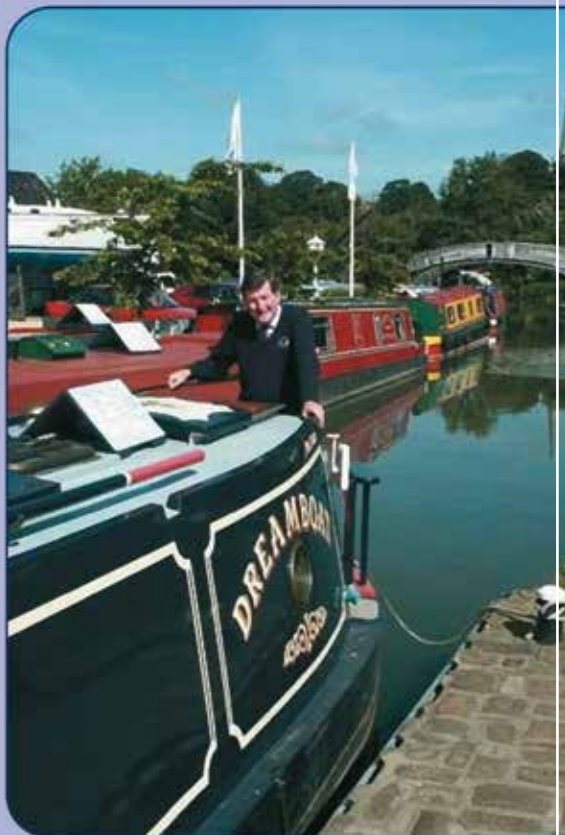
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### Kymin East Site Leader – Ralph Barber

01432 853 086 kymineast@h-g-canal.org.uk

### Hereford Roving Team – John Pritchard

01432 272 972 hereford@h-g-canal.org.uk

### General enquiries – information@h-g-canal.org.uk

## 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

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

Visit our website:



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

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

## 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.

