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Winter 2019

# The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



EDITION  
**142**

**REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER**

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# HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

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## The Wharf House Company Limited

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

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# Contents

Front Page Picture  
Kymin and Yarkhill across the field  
- Debbie Barber

Inside Front cover: Who does what

Page

- 3** Trust Business - It has to be done
- 5** NDP
- 8** Introducing a Trustee
- 10** Neil King
- 11** Dog and Bone
- 11** I had a Phone Call
- 13** Site update - Yarkhill
- 14** Site update - Oxenhall
- 16** Tales from the workshop
- 17** Site update Maslwick
- 20** Site update - Over
- 23** Reeds
- 24** A little more about Susan E
- 25** Site Days

- 25** Stamps
- 26** Uniform sale
- 27** Newent Onion Fayre
- 28** Winter Bazaar
- 29** Past Social evenings
- 30** Get involved
- 30** Come and have your say on the strategy
- 31** Grand Holiday Draw
- 31** Fundraising
- 33** It is not just sales
- 34** Sailing4Disabled
- 36** Social evenings
- 37** Gloucester and District Model Boat Club
- 38** Would like Larger text
- 39** Advertising in The Wharfinger
- 40** Now for something different

## Inside back cover

Contact details  
Membership details and Rates

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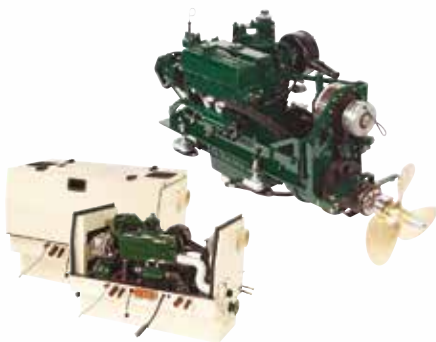
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## ***It has to be done***

We join the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust for many different reasons. Re-building the canal, the history aspects, the friendships that one makes in attending the working parties or doing something for future generations.

Unfortunately for whatever reason you join the Trust a number of other items that you wouldn't normally think about have to be done behind the scenes to ensure we can rebuild that canal.

Completing the lottery paperwork to be on the right side of the gambling laws for our grand draw is one of those things. As a board we have to ensure it is completed within the 3 months of the Grand Draw in September. Thanks to Janet Moulton keeping us on track with this.

The site leaders get annoyed with me, as do my fellow trustees, when I remind them that we need the time tracking sheet completing. It does sometime feel like you are back at work, clocking in as I did in my first job.

Why do we need this? A number of reasons, including the valuable one that it helps when we seek funding by showing the number of hours we all invest in the Trust. It also helps to show the amount and type of training that we undertake. This year we have had people trained in first aid and several Trustees have attended IWA courses in governance and environmental requirements that we need to align to.

These are all things that have to be done in the background to keep the Trust operating. Philip Marshall, our Finance Trustee has ensured that we can now do banking online. You many think that has been around for years. The difference here is that the old process the trust followed for getting two signatures for cheques has now moved on, enabling us to do this with the same safeguards of payments over an agreed value with two electronic signatures. Thus, we have cut down the need for travel, or post, and can get payments done quickly when required. Quite a bit of time spent at the bank and filling forms!

With the changes to The Wharf House several things have also had to be done. All the items in the office had to be moved out to a temporary office (secured) in Gloucester House - thanks go to Eammon McGurk for the loan of office space. We are now moving all of this back to our temporary new office area at Malswick House. This all requires work - from physically transferring the files and paperwork, to the time required to get the office sorted. Changing our registered office and of course all the paperwork changes that are required to ensure we comply with charity and company law.

Charity Commission - we mentioned previously that we had reported a concern





with the Charity Commission. Six months on they have replied, we gave feedback within two weeks as required. More time spent in finding the answers they needed. We have since heard that we have answered all their questions and the case is closed. And all of this is in addition to 'normal canal work' plus general everyday life.

As Trustees we currently meet approx. every four weeks. Since the last Wharfinger the Board has covered many subjects. The highlights are:

- A New Website – this is being road tested and updated weekly.
- Facebook - updates are now happening again. This might not be your thing, but the site gets a lot of views and feedback to go with it.
- A Twitter account is now in place
- A link for Amazon Smile is now in place. (See elsewhere in this Wharfinger for further details).
- Neighbourhood Development Plans - we as a Trust are also involved in the Dymock and Newent NDP's. Attending the open days on the weekend of the 5th / 6th October. Positive feedback overall. (Further information on the next page)
- Waterways World - Thanks to Tony and Nigel who walked part of the canal with Andrew Denny from Waterways World. An item came out in the December's edition of Waterways World.

**Please remember we are having a Strategy session at the Social evening on 21st January 2020. Please encourage all to come along to give their input.**



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# NDP

What is an NDP?

NDP stands for Neighbourhood Development Plan. Neighbourhood planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011. It is an important and powerful tool that gives communities statutory powers to shape how their communities develop.

In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area
- Planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place

Well that is what one of the many web sites says it is. Well it is in part. Unfortunately, you must go through a lot of consultation with your planning council, so you do not have a blank sheet of paper to start with.

Is it worth it?

Some of you may be in an area that has undergone the process of creating an NDP. You may have even taken part on the steering group that is usually formed to drive the process. But why am I mentioning this and what has it to do with the canal.

On October 5th I spent the day at the Newent NDP public open day talking about the route of the canal through the parish of Newent. Talking about the plans we have for the station (Inclined Plane) and listening to the public comments about the canal, the benefits they see and how they believe it could be a great advantage to the area.

Yes, I also had some people having a go at the lack of progress and discussing other points about the canal. That is the benefit of a public session based around the NDP process - the public have a chance to document on the many post it notes about their area defined by the NDP.

On October 6th I moved up to Dymock and joined their 2nd open session to hear the public's view of the canal through the Dymock NDP area.

So, what is next?

Well in the case of Dymock and Newent they must pull all the comments together, review the questionnaires and then start to develop their draft plan. Depending on the concerns or maybe conflicts that the plan has, further public

sessions may be required.

I know of one NDP area that had 9 public sessions in all before the plan could be passed out for formal consultation, called Reg 14. This is a six weeks process when the public and several other organisations such as the Coal Authority, Natural England, Historic England, English Heritage and the National Trust can comment.

Also commenting can be transport companies like Arriva Trains Wales and Great Western Trains Co. Limited, Network Rail (West) and Highways England, as well as many others can comment on the plan.

Once the six weeks has passed, a review of feedback must be done, documented and then sent to the county council to check out. They then pass it out for a further review as you may have had changes between Reg 14 and the feedback you received and what is now Reg 16, another six-week process.

At the end of this you may get the go ahead for an examination. If OK, the team driving the NDP forward are given 3 names of inspectors - you choose one. Once the inspector is assigned, you wait...I have heard of some done in as quick as 6 weeks and some a lot longer. I was personally involved in one that at this stage took 4 months.

The day you get the report, you quickly try and find out one of 3 points.

1. Great, go ahead and go to referendum
2. OK to proceed, if you take the following information on board and update your plan.
3. Sorry, start again this does not pass the rules....

Well the messages are not as clear as above. If you get 1 or 2, then if you are happy with the change suggested, you go to referendum and if passed the plan is then part of the planning regulations within your NDP area.

But why have I told you about this? We will have a protected route along the canal at the county levels, if we can also get support within NDP's along the canal as they are developed.

So, if your council, parish or town is working on an NDP and the canal is going through the defined area of the NDP please raise it with the NDP steering team to see if they would like help in supporting the canal in their area. If so please ask them to contact us.

To answer the question at the start, is it worth it? Having gone through the NDP process. Having gone through the referendum in September 2019. The vote passed the NDP and has already stopped some development that was not in the plan. So yes, it was.

Please ask your local NDP steering team to contact John Kilpatrick so we can further rebuild the canal.

Ralph



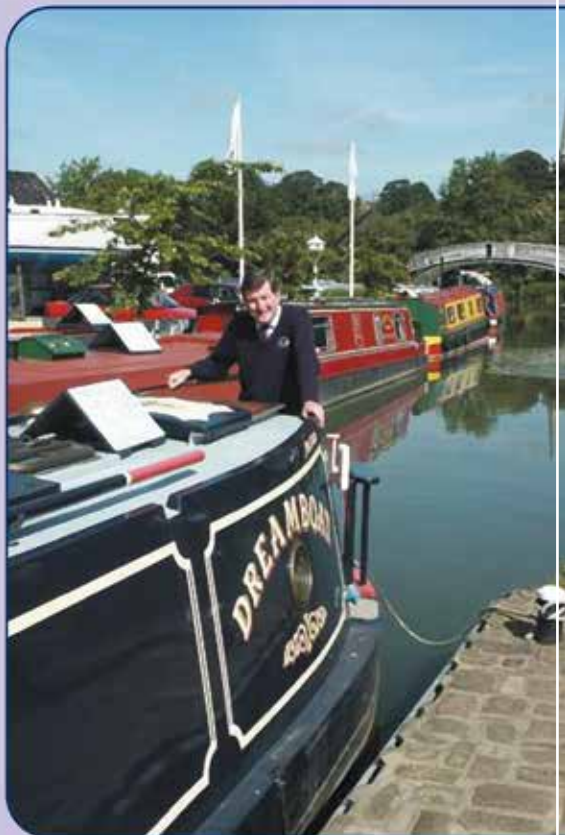
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# Introducing a Trustee

## Philip Marshall

I live with my wife Sheena in Westbury on Severn in a large old stone farmhouse with a big garden which both require a great deal of maintenance so I am kept busy on all the many issues that crop up in old houses.

My mother reckoned that I was a good bodger, so was well suited to this. We have about four acres of land, much of which comprises a field. We have lived here since 1982 and in our time have kept most animals although the only ones we now have (apart from a dog) are five badly laying hens. But we have had sheep, cows, pigs (lovely animals) geese and ducks. But age disease and regulations have taken their toll! The field is an orchard with many cider-apple trees but latterly we have not found anyone to use them which is sad. At the top of the field we planted a small spinney in 1992, and at that time there were about 150 saplings, mostly oak. Most survived and now provide a steady source of firewood.

Our two children grew up here but they have fled the nest and now live away in Oxford and London with our three grandchildren. I was a keen (but very average) cricketer with the village team and now enjoy tennis, playing at least once a week. The most important part of the game is the drinks in the pub afterwards.

In my working life I trained as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte, Haskins and Sells in London. When I qualified I immediately moved to the Deloitte office in Gloucester and stayed there for five years before moving to be the FD of a software house for five years. After that I moved back into practice and formed a partnership to create Griffiths Marshall. That went well and I sold my entire interest in the firm in 2001. After a couple of years doing not a lot I got bored and started being an accountant again – exciting hey! But the years caught up as they do and I have now virtually retired.

My interest in the canal began in about 1999 when I visited Over and work on the basin was starting. My recollection is of a great deal of mud! I spent



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my time cleaning bricks then laying them in the wharf walls. It was an exciting time and the deadline was met, just.

After that I started to get involved with the early stages of the fit-out of the Wharf House but as I have plenty of maintenance to do at home stopped at that site, but moved over to Oxenhall for a spell. But when I went back to work I stopped that as well – I found it hard to try to build a business and volunteer for a day a week.

I returned to the fray and last year became a Trustee and eventually got lumbered with being the Treasurer having already had to unravel the unbelievable mess that was The Wharf House Co Ltd finances. But if you ask why the Canal Trust I would tell you that I have never been on a canal in the UK (although I have been on a French canal) but I did once fall into the Upper Avon Navigation while trying to volunteer there. I aspire to help on the physical engineering and bricklaying side, which I do enjoy.

I like to be busy and that is certainly the case just now, dealing with all day to day money matters (other than Gift Aid which I generously shuffled off onto my friend Gordon Lowthian's shoulders). But in the absence of anyone else to do it I am also trying to keep the income from the commercial properties of the Trust flowing and the repairs required at Malswick House before that can be put back into use.

These are busy times but I hope and believe that we are making good progress.



## Neil King

– remembered by Paul Henshaw

In October we learned, with much sadness that Neil had died after a short illness.



Graham and Neil (on the right) tending a bonfire in the East Woodland.

Neil was a much valued member of the Malswick team and although he was with us a comparatively short time he was able to help out with any activity we were involved with especially with the repair of the brick built bridges and the construction of the new bridge at Okle Clifford Farm.

Neil will always be remembered for his lightning wit and stunning repartee and proved to be an excellent companion. He once commented that he wished he had found out about the Trust earlier. We wish you had too Neil.

He used to disappear to his cottage in France from time to time but he always returned with a fine brand of French biscuits, which were devoured with gusto.

Neil farewell - you will be missed.

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A collage of images at the bottom of the advertisement. From left to right: a computer monitor displaying a website, a printer, a stack of printed materials, a person working at a desk, a person working at a desk, a person working at a desk, and a person working at a desk.

## **Dog and Bone**

Not so many years ago, you could send a letter that would arrive the next day or pick up the phone - the dog and bone.

Today we also have the internet – whether used by PC, tablet or mobile phone. Charities like ours need to be present on the net or miss out on people finding out about us and passing information on.

So, of the many ways that you can connect which ones do we use, or not? Someone must be responsible for all the posts and monitoring. How many do you sign up for?

We will continue to produce The Wharfinger for all members – always good to have hard copy. For those online we have the H&G website. We also have Facebook and Twitter accounts. (We are working on the best way to link the Twitter, Facebook and the website together).

But, not everyone uses Twitter or Facebook or checks the website regularly, and the Wharfinger only comes out four times a year – how to contact our members in between times?

We are setting up an H&G Trust news email. It will only be an occasional communication – maybe to remind members of an event or possibly ask for help on a particular day - that type of thing.

When the new website is ready (we are almost there) you will be able to sign up directly via that. However, if you want to sign up beforehand please email [news@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:news@h-g-canal.org.uk) with your first and last name and you will be added to the list.

Of course, we will still have the dog and bone. For people involved in running the Trust please find their contact details on the back page.

## **I had a phone call**

A member called me about the Lock Keepers.

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# Site Updates

## Yarkhill



With all the rain the canal at Yarkhill is full. With the work done by the team along the towpath, it is a very good walk along this part of the canal. Chris

# Oxenhall

I reported last time that work was proceeding again on the rebuild of the wall next to the lock but our priorities have changed and this has been dropped for the time being.

The Newent project group is dealing with the station restoration and their remit includes the length of canal as far as the Lock Cottage at Oxenhall. They have been in discussion about the first phase of this project which will extend from the lock by the cottage as far as the aqueduct over the Ell Brook and will include a lock, and a length of canal which still exists. The position of the old lock is clearly visible by the change in ground level as you walk along the towpath but there are no visible signs of stonework or brickwork and it is safe to assume that all the stone has been taken away, probably by the railway builders in 1883 who had bought the old canal. Trial excavations have taken place to look for any sign of the brick base but nothing definite has been found.

An environmental inspector has been on site to discuss our plans and we have been advised on the best way to approach the task of clearing the area so that precise measurements can be taken and detailed plans drawn up for the construction of the lock. These will then be presented to the local authorities to consider for planning permission.

Clearance work of the vegetation growing in the lock has now started revealing a quagmire of mud, brambles and loose bricks which are swamped by the water which constantly flows down the old canal from the tunnel. It is clear that this water needs to be diverted away from our working area so our next task will be to create a temporary channel around the top of the lock to take the water away and eventually give us a dry area to work in and build the lock.

This time of the year always means that we have to consider what needs doing to the vegetation along the canal now that nesting is finished. Brambles and low lying vegetation have now been cleared along the non-towpath side of the canal so that a start can be made on pollarding of several willow trees. Hawthorn trees alongside the towpath are also being attended to as they are becoming unsafe. Over the last 2 years we have lost 4 of these as they have become too tall, about 20ft, and together with the ivy growing around them has made them top heavy so that they are blown over by strong winds. There are several still standing and we are in the process of cutting some down and laying some over to create a hedge which will be easily managed in future. We have already successfully tried this system some years ago on another section of this hedge further along the towpath which has now become a dense hedge which can be trimmed once a year.

Geoff and Keith have been working on the small section of wall by the lock which was cracked and it is just about finished. It has not been easy work as it is in a very confined space with the danger of slipping into the water if precautions aren't taken. Most of the stones used have been individually cut and shaped with our stone saw and all the mortar and concrete used has been

mixed by hand.

The tractor, which Ian and Chris have been working on, is now finished and ready for action apart from wanting a coat of paint. It can now be parked under the gazebo which was rescued from Malswick after the marquee there was destroyed by heavy snow last winter.

Regular visits from a health and safety inspector have been taking place over the last few months to advise us on our working practices and how they can be updated. We now have fresh water for drinking and washing if required and are the owners of a portaloos which was delivered to Oxenhall last week. Acquiring a supply of electricity has been investigated but postponed for now until we have a better idea of the future use of this site.



Laying the hedge



It has arrived



Site of the old lock



Checking out the new addition to the site.



Water coming over the dam into the lock

Pictures by Brian Fox and Chris Phelps.

Brian





## Tales from the Workshop

One spring day a HSE man came to our Oxenhall site with a clipboard and began writing furiously. He took Brian aside and Brian became very sad.

Ian and Chris were summoned and given the task of bringing the tractor back to life.

Chris had a little drive and kept going in circles. Ian said you have a big tyre on one side and a little one on the other. So they bounded off to a scrap yard who had loads of tractor things and begged a proper one for £25.

Ian pressed a lever and a pipe squirted oil at Chris. Lots of new pipes obtained and lots of things like the power steering burst into life and Chris was able to swoop about.

Ian said what about the electrics and Chris gave a little pained sigh. All of the switches would not and the wiring was ideal for nesting birds. But lots of knitting , dark muttering and a few spectacular bright flashes and it all worked

Ian tried the screen wiper and roof worklights and lots of smoke drifted up. I,m sure thats not right said Chris and found it all seized up. A new motor obtained.

Ian and Chris had such fun and worked their socks off restoring the old tractor. Chris wrote a long submission to the HSE man detailing all our exciting exploits, and confirmed we had completed our task. Ian and Chris

## Malswick

The Malswick group have spent the past few weeks assisting with some improvements at the Malswick House since its closure in the early part of the year.

The marquee has been dismantled and disposed of, the vine which was in danger of taking over the patio area has been removed and the barrier and gates to the compound have been re-positioned to provide better access to the upstairs flat.



The patio area at Malswick House cleared of the vine.



The area cleared where the marquee previously stood.

Pictures by Alan McBride

**The logs have been flying off the shelves in recent weeks. There are now just enough for a few last deliveries before the year-end . Buy early for Christmas to avoid disappointment.**

Meanwhile preparations are being made to take delivery of a swing bridge which has been kindly donated to the Canal Trust by the Somerset County Council. The bridge has been removed from the Bridgwater Canal and is now surplus to requirements.

We anticipate delivery being made in early December. Eamonn McGurk is allowing the Trust to store the bridge at his Newbliss Farm depot where it will be stripped down and renovated. Thank you Eamonn.

It is planned to instal the bridge on the Malswick site to provide a crossing point across the canal for farm vehicles and pedestrians.

Engineering drawings are currently being finalised by Thomas Ashworth and these will provide details of the groundworks and the foundations required to secure the pinion on which the bridge rotates.

And so onto Bridge No 5. We are beginning to get the hang of this now.

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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The swing bridge at Bridgwater

Picture by Paul Henshaw

## Over

Over the last few months, work on the site has been largely centred around the maintenance and upkeep of the site, together with the start of planning for some future projects.

### Lock Fencing

The most immediate of these projects is the replacement of approximately 60 metres of fencing around the remains of the lock leading into the River Severn. This site, just to the rear of the now renamed "The Lockkeeper" currently has a fence which is beginning to deteriorate in places. Due to the proximity to the restaurant and since there can be a considerable depth of water remaining in the lock, the decision has been taken to renew the complete fence with a sturdier and safer arrangement. Timber for the fence has now been acquired and plans for the erection of the fence are being set up.

### Pump Sets and scrap metal

The NATO surplus pump sets with 10 litre petrol engines, which have been on the site for a number of years, have now found a new home - or rather 2 of the 3 have. Arranged by Tony Selwood, a vehicle enthusiast with a collection of WW2 vehicles has taken 2 of the sets with a view to salvaging the engines. The remaining set, minus the engine which was sold a considerable time ago, is still awaiting collection



Going, going, gone pump sets.



A considerable quantity of scrap metal, some of it having been left on site by Britannia Construction two years ago, has now also been sold and removed from the site by a metal merchant. The site is beginning to look much tidier as a result.

### Stuart Water Pump

The pump has operated well over the summer months, enabling the water level in the canal to be kept at a suitable level. In recent weeks, however, we have had a number of high tides in the Severn, coupled with some high water levels in the river due to rainfall, and this has in turn resulted in flooding of parts of the site.



As can be seen, the River Leadon has overtopped its banks, on several occasions. To avoid the risk of damage to the pump should further flooding occur during the winter, the pump has now been disconnected and moved to higher ground until needed again next year.

### **Cycle Cave**

This long running project is now complete. The roof has been water-proofed and now has a covering of soil - we wait to see what the new tenants in The Lockkeeper will choose to plant there.

The security bars for cycle locking have also been fitted - we now wait hopefully for the influx of cyclists wishing to visit our site.



### **Heritage Boats**

Renton and Bosley are both operational although in need of some cleaning and painting.

Alder has been troubled for some time now with starting problems and some electrical issues.

Chris Phelps has very kindly spent several days investigating the troubles and now appears to have resolved the issues.



Susan E is fully operational as a trip boat- licenced to carry 5 passengers. She was to have been used in September as part of a wedding celebration at The Lockkeeper, which unfortunately did not take place.



## Wildlife

We have been aware for a long time that otters are active in the River Leaddon. The recent flooding left a large amount of silt on the river banks, which provided first class evidence of their presence.



We have yet to see one of these elusive creatures.

The swan family, with their 4 cygnets, suddenly disappeared many weeks ago. This is not unusual and in previous years they have normally returned within a few weeks. This year, their prolonged absence led to considerable speculation about what may have happened to them, but they have made a sudden reappearance, still with all 4 cygnets, now of adult size.

## Reeds

As you will see in other parts of this Wharfinger a number of articles about reeds. Recently some equipment was purchased and in a test at Over it proved very successful at removing the bullrushes around the weir.

At the start



Reeds gone



Getting the technique



## What is it

*The device thrown is a Jenlis Weed Razer from the USA*

*Once it lands in the water, you allow it to sink and then pull it so that the very sharp blades cut the reeds under the water which is the current best practice for weed removing*

A steady pull



*After a couple of throws and pull backs a track can be seen and then a rake is used to remove the cuttings.*

*Interested in seeing it work, check out YouTube and in the search window add in Weed Razer or better still come and have a go.*

*Contact Andy at Over if interested in helping to clear the weed with the weed razor.*

## A little more about Susan E

The boat first came to the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust at Over basin during 2014 for it's first launch and maiden voyage.



Susan - E had been built as a personal project by Mr. Alan Keef, the owner of Alan Keef Ltd, Light Railway Engineers and Locomotive Builders from Ross-on-Wye. Using a 16ft aluminium hull as the basis for the project, Alan stripped out the hull and rebuilt it in the style of a river steamer, complete with cabin and canopy roof.

The origin of the hull is a little uncertain. It has been suggested that it was built as the tender for a Sunderland flying boat, although there is no evidence to substantiate this. It may also have been a lifeboat from a small vessel, but is slightly unusual in having a transom stern. Any information about a possible origin for this type of hull would be most welcome.

Inevitably, as a consequence of Alan's passion for steam, Susan-E was fitted with a boiler and steam engine. However, rather than drive a propeller, the steam engine powered a 24volt generator which in turn charged 4 large 12volt batteries, which again in turn powered a 48volt electric outboard motor.

After the maiden voyage on the canal and following a few modifications, Susan - E appeared at several of the canal Open Days in her steam powered form, piloted by Mr.Keef and provided a very pleasant contrast to the other heritage canal boats being run.

Alan's attentions subsequently moved on to other projects and in the early part of 2017 he removed the steam plant and generator before, in April 2017, very generously gifting Susan-E, complete with road trailer, to the Canal Trust on a permanent loan basis to be used and maintained as a trip boat.

Susan - E is now totally electric and is charged from a mains electricity supply.

### The technical bits

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Length       | 16ft 10ins Overall<br>15ft 6ins Waterline                         |
| Beam         | 6ft 10ins   |
| Draught      | 15ins   |
| Displacement | 2 tons (approx.)  |
| Duration     | Approximately 10 hours at low speeds from fully charged batteries |



Susan - E is fitted out with bench seating and is licenced to carry 2 crew members plus 5 passengers.

Andy



# Site Days

## Tuesdays

Malswick – Tuesdays  
Paul Henshaw, 01684 293 930  
malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Oxenhall/ Newent Station  
Brian Fox 01432 358 628,  
oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

## Wednesdays

Over Basin/Vineyard Hill  
Andy Fowler  
overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk

## Thursday

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

## Ad Hoc

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

Kymin  
Ralph Barber 01432 853 086  
kymin@h-g-canal.org.uk

# Stamps

Stamps - the H&G stamps appeal is still alive and well so please keep saving those stamps, albums, covers, postcards and anything else vaguely philatelic.

They can be handed in to Janet Moulton at any Social Evening or sent direct to:

H&G Stamps, c/o Steve Bence, 35 Lime Road, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 1EQ.

Attention All Members in the Hereford Area: if any member has envelopes from the local hospital or health authority with stamps perforated with the letters H A H A (or variations of this), please could you send the WHOLE envelope to Steve; and for every envelope received he will put £1 into the Stamps Appeal pot.

Thank You.

PS - this is not an early April Fool!

# Uniform sale

Over the years there has been a number of black/yellow versions of the H & G volunteer/supporters' uniform. We are now looking at updating some of the items.

I have a number of items in various styles and sizes for sale at **£5 ONLY**.

If you contact me I will send you a list of those available – there may be a small additional charge for p & p if I cannot deliver

Janet Moulton



## Our Sales Stand at Newent Onion Fayre on 14th Sept 2019

Newent's annual big event, the Onion Fayre, was a splendid place to showcase our work and aspirations.

We had sunny weather, attracting a large number of people to the town. Indeed it was heaving for a good four hours!

Our Stall was in the thick of it, and attracted much interest from the public. Board of Trustee members, John Kilpatrick & Philip Marshall, did a sterling job responding to their questions.

Our volunteers, some new to this, got into the swing of things happily, creating a friendly atmosphere. The setting up & clearing up went smoothly, and sales far exceeded our costs. Also local artist Mr Keith Aston, kindly donated three paintings.

Thank you to all the volunteers, without whose help this could not have been possible. Together we can do so much more!

It was a long day, but really enjoyable and satisfying, to be a part of this event, raising awareness of our cause. Yes, I think we'll be there again next year. - Also gained new members and raised just short of £200.

Ginny Birkett  
Onion Fayre H&G CT Stall Organiser



## 2019 Winter Bazaar

In true Dickensian fashion, the day was wet and very, very cold. (Luckily, it was dry for us all to unload and load again afterwards.) The weather adversely affected our number of visitors and therefore our profits.

Despite that, the atmosphere inside was warm and friendly and our stallholders mostly found it was well worth coming. Our warm soup and wonderful array of cakes were much appreciated. Only one stallholder will not be returning next year. Daph Willett has had a table with us every year since before I took over in 2003, at that time producing the most wonderful etched glass. Her health has forced her to “change tack” over the years and she’s now decided she must give up. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for supporting us and gracing our event with her quality goods, over so many years.

Our Christmas hamper was, as usual, a wonderful sight, but Judy struggled more than usual to get the public to part with £1 for a ticket to win it! Janet Moulton made the draw for us and we were delighted that “one of our own”, Phyl Brewer, won it. (I was really surprised, as Phyl had worked continuously in the kitchen since 08.00 and I didn’t think she’d had enough time off to purchase a ticket!) She had also baked us two wonderful cakes and some appetising cheese scones, so the verdict was unanimous that she really deserved it.

Next year, we are changing the event to an Autumn Bazaar on 31st October, hoping that a warmer day will benefit volunteers and stallholders alike with a less spartan temperature, and entice many more people out to spend their money at our wonderful array of outlets.



Pat  
Skeet

## From Octobers Social evening Canals From the Air

During World War 1 the science of aerial photography developed as a reconnaissance tool. After the war it became a business for marketing firms and recording sites.

The photo library on line at Britain from Above an English Heritage initiative captures many snapshots of the canals in the 1920's and 30's a time when they were trying to recover from their wartime lack of maintenance and the challenge of lorries and railways.

The photograph of the Wednesbury old canal shows the junction with Ryders Green locks, nearby shots show a horse boat moving down Ryders Green. In this photo each basin has boats in it, some are derelict and the landscape is moving from older industry to new factories.

Do look at the website [britainfromabove.org.uk](http://britainfromabove.org.uk)



## From September Social evening.

Mike Jones, a 28 years member of the mountain rescue team told us some fascinating stories about rescues and training around Longtown.

Mike started his talk by introducing a book to us. "The diary of a Rowing Tour from Oxford to London in 1875". I had not heard of the book, but I know some of you have as in discussions after the talk.

For those who have not come across this book, it is about five young men who in late July 1875 set off on a three-week trip around the rivers of the west of England.

They started in Oxford, pass Warwick, then through Gloucester, up the canal to Hereford, down to Ross on Wye, Bristol, Newbury then on to Chertsey.

Its title is as above, ISBN is 0904387 70 4

## Get Involved - How You Can Help

As the new board come up to speed with all the challenges of running the Trust, we find that we need help in many areas if we are going to give the canal Trust a boost and get things moving more quickly.

**Sites** – extra boots on the ground to help with the work at current sites.

**Promotion** - help promote the Trust at events like Braunston Historic Boats weekend or the Newent Onion Fayre. We have been attending fewer shows as less volunteers have come forward.

**Planning** - Help in two areas here.

Reviewing planning applications made by others that are along the canal route to ensure the councils are doing their job correctly and preserving the canal route.

We are pulling together a number of projects that will be going through the planning process, help in pulling all the requirement documents together is required.

**Fundraising** – we urgently need some help here to put a team together for occasional fundraising events and looking for and applying for grants.

**Office Support** - Helping with the operation of the Trust. Dealing with the post, working with other members of the board to get the bills paid and get the invoices out and responding to urgent issues relating to the Trust properties as they come up. We believe this job can be done from home and a visit to the HQ weekly to deal with the post. Standard office skills are required, and any further information please contact Philip Marshall. Email: [finance@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:finance@h-g-canal.org.uk)

Many of the above can be done from home, or out and about like the promoting of the Trust, please contact any member of the board as on the back page for further information.



### Come and have your say on the strategy



We need your input on the way forward. The social evening on January 21st is given over to all members to help in the strategy discussions.

This open evening is for you to come and share your ideas and make comments

**January 21st 7.30 for 8pm at the Royal Oak, Much Marcle HR8 2ND**



# ***GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW 2019***

Our Grand Holiday Draw has had another successful year. We raised over £1500

All the prize winners were H & G members

One week's Boat Hire was won by Mr Marsh of Bristol

A Day Boat Hire by Mr Sinnett of Wombourne

Dinner, B & B at The Lock keepers by Mr Scarrott of Hay on Wye

Thank you for the generous donations to Black Prince Narrow Boats, ABC Leisure and Native Hotels

Janet Moulton

## ***Kind Donations***

Thank you to the generous donors from Hereford for their large donation and all the others we have recently received. These were most gratefully accepted and will help towards our goal of restoring the canal from Hereford to Gloucester.

## ***Fundraising for H & G the easy way!***

We've registered with easyfundraising and we need your help!

easyfundraising is a great website where you can help H & G Canal Trust raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 4,000 big name retailers like Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you' and it's completely free too! We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hfdandglcscanaltrust/>

H & G Canal Trust is also now registered with Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop on smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) to H & G canal, but you have to sign up.

Simply sign up, choose to support Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust and then get a free donation for H & G whenever you buy an eligible product at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>.

## 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,  
DYMCK,  
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.



Purchases can be arranged by  
contacting Paul Henshaw on 01684  
293930 or  
email: [malswick@h-g-canal.co.uk](mailto:malswick@h-g-canal.co.uk)

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**Travels**  
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**It is not just sales  
it is promotion.**

The team that travel around the shows - like St Richards in Droitwich in May and Braunston for the Historic Narrowboat Rally in June - are in a unique position to promote the trust. We want to get the message out there - all about the work we are doing on the canal.

Why not come and help? You will get a uniform to help promote the trust (not a high viz!), entry to the event, be able to chat to fellow volunteers, and maybe a trustee, and meet with the public.

Plans are underway for events next year in Droitwich, Braunston, Newent, Ledbury and a number of other locations in the area. If interested in joining the team. Please contact Janet. See back pages for details.



**Sailing4Disabled**

Pete (the pirate) Bisson



Hello folks

It's sad that this is the last newsletter until Christmas, it's surprising how quick it's all come round.

This year we've had quite a few new clients which is encouraging and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again next year, or even through the winter months, though I've just said we've had a good year we've had a few disappointed days because of inclement weather one might say, rained off.

I can also report that we've kept our bargain by providing the wheelyboat for weed clearance on several occasions and also one very back-breaking day of bulrush clearing from the side of the towpath, this enables the wheelyboat and the KataKanus more water space, and encouraged me to wash my life jacket, anything is better than the canal mud aroma?

Once again I would like to thank our volunteers Eric, Andy, Vince, Martyn, Patrick, Martin and Adrian for their dedication and support to me, and all of our regular and casual clients who without any of these I would be at a loss, but I'm sure my dear wife would not let me sit at home doing nothing!

From all of us at sailing4disabled /rowing pirates a very Happy Christmas to you and yours.

Pete ( long gone silver) and volunteers.



### **Malswick House Update**

The upstairs has been changed to make use of all the space available and a new tenant is now in place.

Downstairs we will use as a temporary H&G HQ Office and meeting location for project teams such as the Malswick and Newent Station teams. The outside has also had some further work completed on it to smarten the place up.





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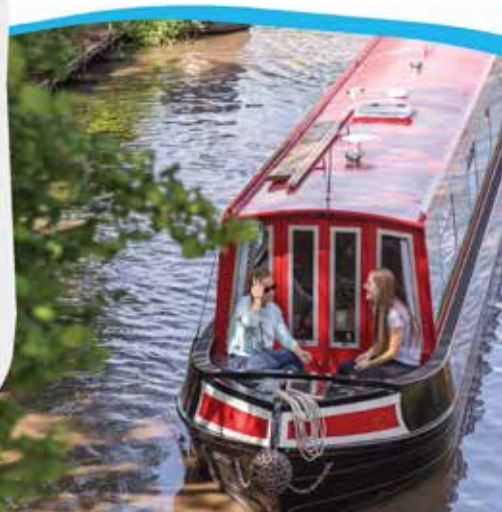
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## Social Evenings at the Royal Oak

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.



### Jan 21st - Strategy Discussions



We have ideas, we need your input as well as we work on the strategy together. We are holding an open evening for you to come and give your input. We of course are aiming to re-build the canal, but it can be done in many ways. Which way do you think it should be done? Do we expand Over first or build a canal by Malswick House or get the inclined plane built at Newent or develop opportunities in Herefordshire. How do we operate in the future?



### Your chance to give your views



#### Feb 18th - Papers and Planes

A topical and not-so-topical look at the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal with Dick Skeet

#### Mar 17th - S S Great Britian

A 127- year voyage. Mike Watkins returns to tell us of a ship that is not on the bed of the ocean

#### April 19th - Montgomery Canal

Past, present and future. 13 years since we last heard from Michael Limbery so we definitely need an update



We were sorry that more Canal Trust people did not come down and visit us on our open day celebrating 30 years of the Model Boat Club's existence, it would have shown you all a very positive view of what the Canal Restoration can provide as it extends through to other communities and the uses, not just Canal Cruising that the waterway system can provide to all sorts of users and the enjoyment that can be created.

We took our mini "Have a go" tugboats to Speech House steam rally and they were busy all day, (and so were Danny and Ted who did much of the work demonstrating them!) in the end we ran out of battery power.

We continue to sail our boats although getting through to the Winding Hole is getting hard due to the weed growth this year, we have been carrying out regular weeding sessions with the last one just two weeks ago (late September) and hopefully the last one before winter sets in. We have also "in stock" three Barley Straw bales so that we can control the Algae when the time comes.

Your scribe has 'given in' to the weed and the latest boat, now almost completed is once again "paddle powered" as paddles do not jam up as much as conventional propellers do, sadly for all of us as long as farmers are financially encouraged to use artificial fertilizer they will continue there excessive use of it, which results in blocked waterways for everyone.

On the plus side the sailors have enjoyed their Micromagic sailing this summer in spite of the weather (they are a hardy lot!) and all 12 race sessions were completed thanks especially to John Hamer our Harbourmaster.

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



Red Lion



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Would you 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.org.uk](mailto:editor@h-g-canal.org.uk)

**Copy Deadline for the next edition is 31st January 2020**

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Rates from £39 per issue,  
please contact: Ginny Birkett on 01531 820345 or email:ada@h-g-canal.org.uk

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# Now for something different

## *Geocaching comes to Over*

What is geocaching? Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

There are over 3 million geocaches in over 200 countries waiting to be discovered—there are probably even some near you right now. There are certainly almost 900 within 10 miles of Gloucester. Between 2008 and 2017 there was even one on the International Space Station although, understandably, it only ever had one logged 'find'. You can find caches at the top of mountains, at the bottom of flooded quarries and just about everywhere in-between.

Geocaching was originally similar to the 160-year-old game letterboxing, which uses clues and references to landmarks embedded in stories. Geocaching was conceived shortly after the removal of Selective Availability from the Global Positioning System on May 2, 2000, because the improved accuracy of the system allowed for a small container to be specifically placed and located. The first documented placement of a GPS-located cache took place on May 3, 2000.

Geocaching offers something for everyone, from families with children to retirees. Some geocachers play the game to see how many total "finds" they can get, while others play to see how many new countries they can visit. Geocaching is a great way to find remarkable destinations that you would not have otherwise discovered. It is also an excellent education tool and an excuse to get off the couch.

To get started, create a free basic account at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and use Geocaching.com or the free Geocaching® app to search for geocaches near your location. Once you find a geocache, open it up and sign the logbook. You may discover some trade or swag items (small toys, keychains, trinkets) inside the geocache. The general rule of thumb is if you take something, leave something of equal or greater value. Then, place the container back exactly how you found it and share your experience online with the rest of the geocaching community.

Many of my 'finds' have been made whilst on canal boat holidays – notably the 121 caches on the Macclesfield Canal, between Macclesfield and Kidsgrove. Locally I am aware of caches along the Hereford and Gloucester at Oxenhall, Ledbury and at least one other (secret) spot. What a dream it would be to have a series of caches following the whole route of the canal!

Just one last thing – geocaching can become VERY addictive. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Julia Bomken (aka 'glosjools')

## Contact details

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0121 477 9782 [chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk)

Vice-Chair – Ralph Barber  
01432 853 086

Land and Environment - John Kilpatrick  
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[landandenvironment@h-g-canal.org.uk](mailto:landandenvironment@h-g-canal.org.uk)

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*Want to help?* The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from gardeners to first aiders, brickies to those willing to help with a shovel, pen or laptop. The H&G CT also welcomes offers of gifts of good quality used tools and machinery from those who no longer need or cannot use it.

## *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 our membership Secretary.

### 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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## 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.

