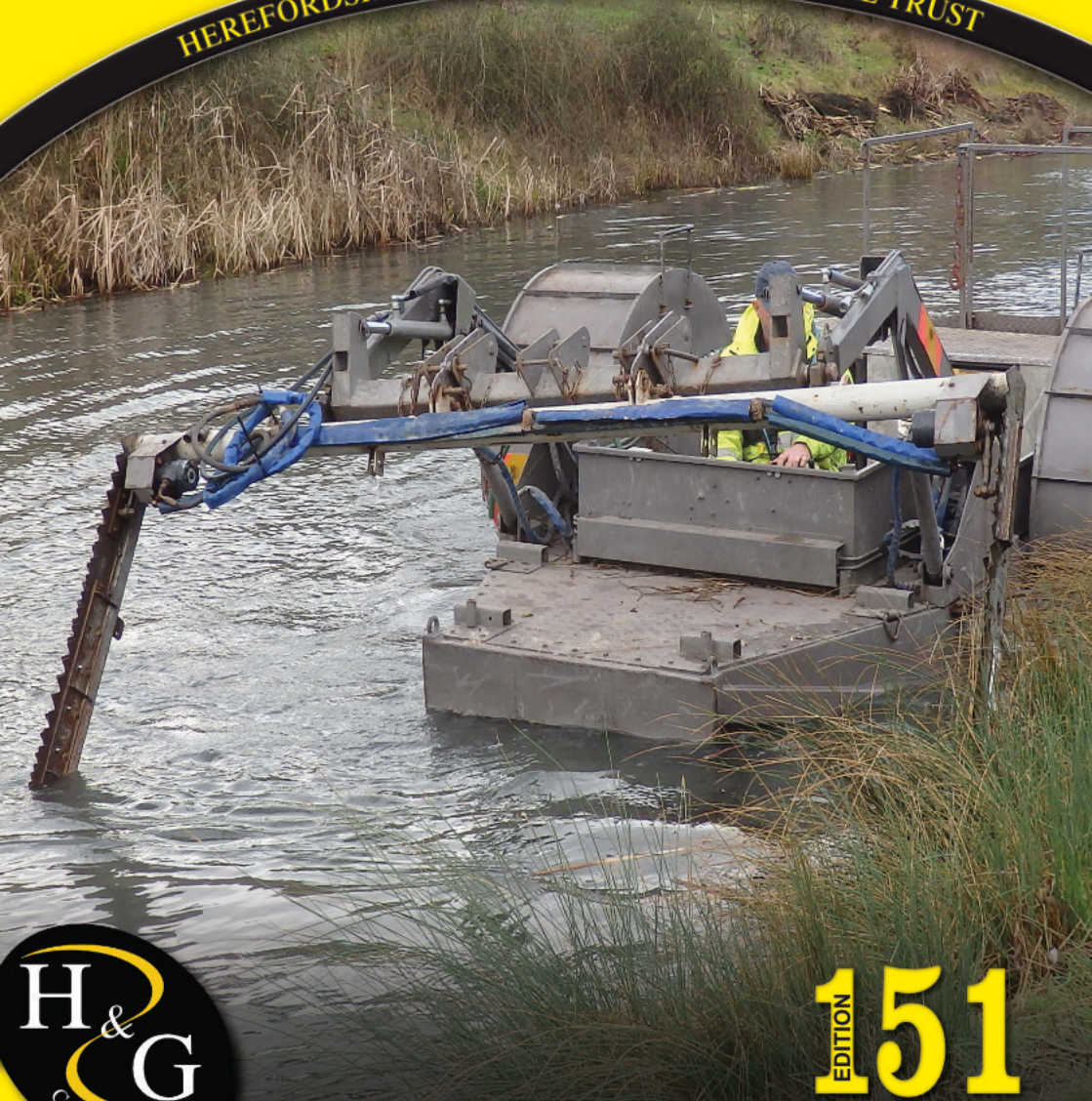


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Spring 2022

The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



EDITION **151**

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Welcome to the 30th year of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Trust.

Thank you to all past chairs, trustees, members, volunteers, and supporters. We have had a lot of discussions about open days and the like to celebrate the anniversary as we think we should thank everybody. The Over site, looking like a canal should, will host an H&G Members and Volunteers Thank You Day on the 24th of September 2022.

The aim is to meet members and volunteers (old and new), have a walk along the canal or take a boat ride. We plan to run the boats from 10 till 4. We have asked along the other water users at Over, so lots to see. Yes, you can bring the grandchildren along for a ride on a boat as we are restoring the canal for them. Maybe one day, they will enjoy a boat ride from Over to Hereford or before that help with its restoration.

Nigel Jefferies receives all our grateful thanks for his past work over 20 years as Membership Secretary. He is now giving up this role but continues as our longest running Trustee. Thank you so much Nigel. Tony Higgins has now taken on the Membership role – further details about Tony can be found on page 6.

We start the year with a lot of successes. The latest, as reported in the last edition, was the gaining of planning permission at Malswick for 600 metres of canal. I quickly visited on the site in early February, and it is good to see the success of the planning permission has not gone to their heads – tea breaks are continuing as usual.



As a part of this success, we will have three weeks of WRG (Waterways Recovery Group) camps at Malswick in the summer to help dig out the canal channel and to do training with our volunteers.

After walking the route four times myself, and I know Phil Platt has done it more times, we have a new walk leaflet in the Ashperton area – read all about it later.

I always ask in my introduction, and this version is no different, we are still looking for Trustees. This month I will mention Operations Trustee – who will work closely with all active sites to turn them into finished canal with boats on, eventually. The OT will work with the site leaders with their plans for their sites, helping with their resource and other requirements.

I occasionally receive emails and letters about the canal. A recent one from a new member: How many miles in water? How many sites in progress? How many locks in place?

So how many miles in water? Using the magic of Google Earth (and I am talking about water along the length of canal, not just that we have under H&G ownership) it is around a

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third in water, in the winter, several sites will fill up with water and then dry out over the summer months. Of course, we also have other parts of the canal like the flooded tunnel at Ashperton with too much water. How many sites in progress? Over, Moat Farm, Malswick, Newent & Oxenhall, Dymock, Ledbury, Monkhide, Yarkhill, Kymin, Aylestone Park and a couple that we are in current discussions with landowners.

The AGM is back face to face this year – we hope. We are looking at a re-introduction of the slide show plus some videos and future news to encourage you all (well a lot of you?) to attend. If you want to see progress, we have several YouTube videos on the H&G site that are showing great progress at Malswick plus videos on boats that visited again this year to help control the reeds.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Wharfinger and as always, any questions, comments, please contact me via chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk.

Ralph Barber

Notification – Annual General Meeting 2022



The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust will be held at Ledbury Community Hall on Wednesday, 22 June 2022 at 7:30pm.

The formal notice of the 2022 AGM will be published on our web site as required under the Articles 28 days prior to the above date. In accordance with the H&G CT's Articles and Memorandum of Association, those members of the Board of Trustees who are retiring on rotation but offering themselves for re-election do not require to be formally nominated to serve an additional term.

New Nominations

New nominations to serve on board of Trustees are Welcome. Requests for a nomination form should be made by the person making the nomination by email agm@h-g-canal.org.uk. Nominations should be submitted in the period between 28 days and 7 days prior to the AGM.

Proxy voting

Every member who is entitled to vote at an AGM may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy must be someone entitled to vote at the AGM. Proxy forms are also available via email to agm@h-g-canal.org.uk and should be completed, signed and returned to arrive at least 48 hours before the start of the AGM.

After the official meeting there will be a slide show covering activities over the past year and what next. This year we are looking forward to having an in-person meeting after two years of Zoom.

We are also considering whether it is possible for our membership from afar to connect to the meeting digitally.

Introducing – Tony Higgins



The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on. So, it is with membership secretaries. Nigel Jefferies has been successfully looking after our membership for over 20 years and has now decided that it is time to hand over that responsibility to another person, which is me.

Many thanks and much appreciation are due to Nigel for his unflinching dedication over this huge run of time and I will be keeping an ear close to his ground for hints and tips going forward.

I, that is Tony Higgins, have lived in the area for around 12 years but only retired recently and had the fortune to run into Chairman Ralph and get involved with the Yarkhill working group last autumn.

My own canal background started with a university narrow boat holiday on the Cheshire Ring in 1971 and continued in a 'relationship' with a black iron hulled 72-foot ex Birmingham Coal Butty Boat on the BCN based at Gas Street Basin. Her name was "Orianne" and she ended up with me at Ken Keay's boat yard in Walsall having a rotten elm bottom replaced with some neatly welded steel plate. This was just prior to dutch elm disease when elm planks were horribly expensive! Alas, she had to go to fund a house and marriage, but a love of canals and of industrial heritage remains.

There are two aspects to the maintenance and restoration of historic canals in which the Hereford and Gloucester excels. The industrial heritage for this part of England is particularly interesting being on the fringes of the industrial revolution and the canal reflects this with tunnels, cuttings and embankments that were state of the art and features such as Steven Ballard's Skew Bridge which is reputed to be the "skewyist" bridge on the whole canal network.

The second aspect is that of opening up the countryside so that everyone can enjoy walking in the open air. The Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust is working to make more of the canal-side available to walkers to experience the beauty and tranquillity of our counties.

As membership secretary I want to ensure that all members are up to date both in their details provided to us and with our activities provided to them. So this is just to let everyone know of the change in personnel and to say that if you have any queries or worries just let me know via email on the usual address membership@h-g-canal.org.uk or if urgent on mobile tel: 07971 517434.

Looking forward to getting to know some of you and to providing a service for all of you.

Tony Higgins

Reed Cutting Boats Back at Aylestone Park



Launching the picking up boat. They have an electric winch within the trailer that controls the launch.



The cutting head ready to load on the cutting boat.



The cutting boat working down the canal



The cutting boat is driven by paddles, so we can say we have had paddle boats on the canal!

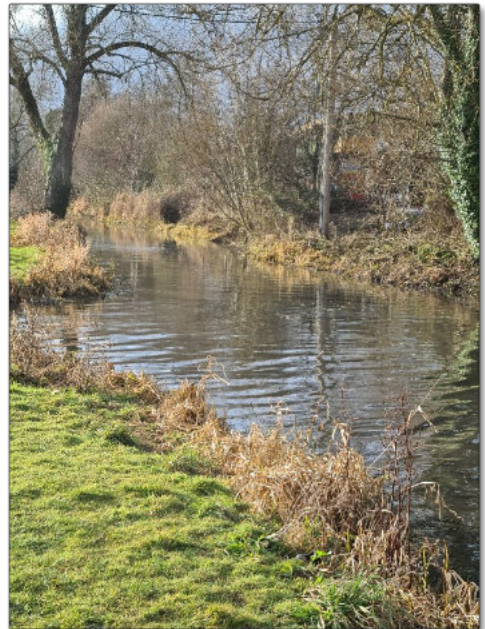


The picking up boat doing its work

Following the success in 2021 with dealing with the reeds at both Over and Aylestone Park, the reed boats made a return visit in February. By keeping the reeds cut back on an annual basis, it is hoped that the spread of the growth can be kept under control. Pictures below show before and after at Aylestone Park.



A bit of tree work as well



Ralph Barber

The risks associated with Covid and in particular the Omicron variant, are still present. Consequently, our volunteers remain cautious and careful – choosing to forego the comforts of the site hut and to take breaks in our “Covid - safe” dining facility.

Site Upkeep

Work around the site during the winter months has predominantly been to clear away dead undergrowth and fallen branches. Also, a significant number of young self-set willow trees that have appeared along the canal bank have been dug out before they become too large to remove.

Bird Nest Boxes.

Thanks to the generosity of Scouts in Hereford, we have been supplied with a number of new nest boxes to replace or supplement some of our existing ones which have reached the end of their useful life. These have now been placed around the site and we wait with interest the start of the nesting season. Will the new homes be considered as desirable residences and if so – by whom?

Vineyard Hill

Following the efforts made to clear weed from the canal, as reported in the last issue of Wharfinger, we have attempted to keep the water as clear as possible by running boats along the canal every week. Weed growth at this time of the year is very much reduced in any case, but keeping boats moving along the canal will hopefully keep the situation in check when the growth begins again later in the year.

One problem that is of concern, however, is slippage of the hillside along one section of Vineyard Hill. This has occurred here in the past, resulting in a significant reduction in both the width and depth of the channel, and monitoring of the hill indicates that further intermittent slippages may still be happening. Whilst possible schemes for a longer term solution to the problem are considered, we are hoping that keeping boats running through the channel will provide a short term fix and prevent the channel becoming impassable.



Heritage Boats – Mr Maysey

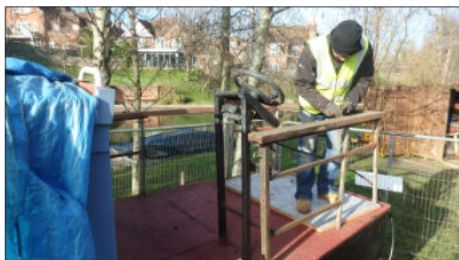
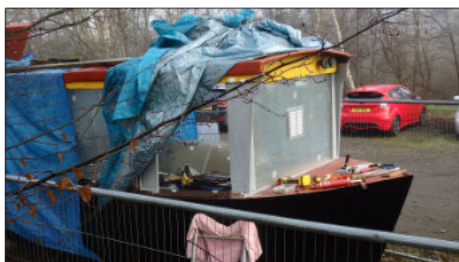
Work on Mr Maysey has progressed very well over recent weeks. The rear deck has been completed and re-painted. The guard rails around the deck are being cleaned off and repainted, together with the handrail getting treated to a rub down and re-varnish.

The cabin steps which collapsed under Graham earlier (see Wharfinger 150) have



now been completely rebuilt and sealed at the top to prevent water from the deck seeping in and causing a repeat of the previous problem

Work is now well under way on the front of the cabin and the fore deck. New woodwork has been made to replace the rotted timber and when this is completed and fitted, painting of the exterior of the cabin will go ahead.



Susan-E

After the extensive re-fit carried out over the summer, better weather protection for the boat over the winter period was felt to be necessary.

Therefore, the boat trailer, briefly modified to carry the tractor, has been returned to its original form. Susan has been taken from the canal and loaded on to the trailer, then sheeted over as protection until the better weather arrives and we can re-launch her.



Alder, Renton and Bosley

These boats are all in an operational condition.

At the moment, mainly Renton and Bosley are being used to help keep the Vineyard Hill channel open as Alder is a little deeper in the water and is more prone to getting stuck.



We continue to seek new volunteers to join us. At the end of last year we were pleased to welcome Richard as the latest new volunteer and we have a two further enquiries being followed up.

The Winget Concrete Mixer

This was the subject of a short article in the previous issue of Wharfinger.

So far, we have not received any information regarding the mixer, or heard from anyone who may be interested in having it.

It remains at Over for the present time, but as we have no further use for it we would like to dispose of it – preferably to somewhere it may be used rather than as scrap.

Any background information or interest would be very welcome and we can be contacted via email at overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk.

Andy Fowler

Swans at Over



Meet Tiny and Tim my two orphaned cygnets. After a phone call five weeks ago from Swan rescue, the tiniest cygnet I've ever seen for its age arrived. She had been found abandoned, all alone very much underweight and starving.

I didn't think she would last the night, but she survived. A week later a phone call from Swan rescue brought me another distressed cygnet. He had been found battered and bruised by other Swans.

It's taken a lot of TLC and patience from Nanny Swan but after five weeks they have almost doubled their weight and size and look amazingly healthy.

Monica Hamer



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1st Call can offer a same day or next day delivery on self-drive hire using the industries top brands of equipment giving the customers the quality they desire. Our fleet has an age profile of less than 12 months but in the unlikely event of a breakdown, we have a team of qualified and experienced mobile engineers who will be onsite within a few hours.

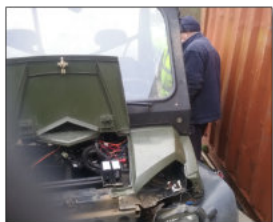


Autumn saw a thorough Inspection of the MF135 that a raised few issues and traumatised the team.

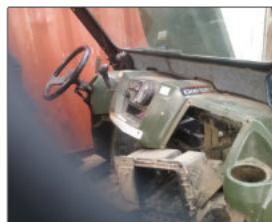
The first scare was the hydraulics, which became fainter until non-existent. Tests revealed a failed pump nestling in the depths of the transmission. This involved a complete strip of the transmission and fitting of a new pump, new oil, and filters; full lift restored to great relief. Rejoicing was short lived as checks then revealed no battery charging, so dynamo and controller were sent to Mr Pinder who tested both, found both expired and sent back two service exchange units.



The forklift attachment was next to be scrutinised, which presented a major challenge. The lift chains failed the test and proved nonstandard, making renewal a step too far. The forklift is rear facing but the operating position is fixed forward thus deeply frowned upon by HSE. A decision was made to consign the rear forklift to heartbreak corner and construct a quick detach interchangeable forward forklift, making it a much safer option. This also freed up the PTO and 3-point linkage paving the way for various attachments and a transport box.



Progress has been set back a little as the team had to wrestle a few dragons to the ground. One of these has been the ATV hand brake which certainly did not. This involved removing not only the front but also the complete dash to enable renewal of the operating clevis pins.



We clearly need to wipe the dirty oil off the workshop camera lens too!

Tipping the rear end enabled Roger to dangle into the abyss in order to replace the transmission pads. Battered but proud of the achievement, the key was turned to test the amazing effort to be met with click. A battery test revealed despair, but a jump start got it going and a charge check was good. A new battery was begged from Philip and the ATV handed back to resume its stoic work.

Secondly, the pitiful saga of the Crawler Dumper, but we will save this for next time.

The Over reed cutter also waits patiently for attention as does the Moat diesel pump – plenty of worthy projects on the list and lots to look forward to.

Chris Phelps

News from Malswick



The old site entrance had limited visibility for vehicles leaving the site, so a bigger and higher gate was designed. The new entrance has much more substantial groundwork. Ian Bateman is using the roller to compact the layers of aggregate.

Hedge planting continues apace. Over a hundred metres of hawthorn and other native species have now been planted thanks to a very generous anonymous donation.

Work on the small culvert paused for a few minutes when something looking like a bomb was discovered sticking through the mud. On inspection it turned out to be the end of an old gate post. Still, Graham is handling it very carefully (it wasn't dangerous but was very muddy).

The canal passes over a small stream and pipework was used to allow this. The 0.7 tonne concrete pipes were lowered in place by Malcolm Clivery and Peter Woodfield. Bob Hargreaves carefully aligned them and ensured the connections were correctly made to the top and bottom inspection chambers.



There remains a great deal more to be done at Malswick.

Alan McBride



Search Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust on YouTube to see more on the work at Malswick.

Our Land Fund needs You !



To those of you on the email distribution list and who have responded to our request for funds to buy land next to the Malswick site, both north and south – **A Big Thank You.** Unfortunately, we still need more. If you could support the Land Fund for this and future purchases, please do so – at time of writing we are awaiting results of discussions about the additional land – please see web site for most up to date information.

If you wish to donate this can be done via the web site or using BACS transfer (sort code 16-21-20 and account 11600694). Please mention it is for the Land Fund – it will then go into restricted funds.

It may seem like yet another request for money as we also feature in this Wharfinger the annual **Grand Holiday Draw**. Unfortunately, volunteer time and good will can only go so far, it basically comes down to the fact that hard cash is required.

While spending money on other things you can sometimes create funding for the H&G Canal Trust. Below are some ideas.

Shopping on the internet.

H&G are registered with both easyfundraising.co.uk and smile.amazon.co.uk. If you purchase through either of these sites, we can receive a small percentage of each purchase as a donation. Just sign on and choose us as your selected charity and Bob's your uncle – you are helping H&G with only an extra click of your finger.

Donations

If you should be lucky enough to win on the lottery or premium bonds or any other windfall, a donation via bank transfer can be an easy way to help the trust. If you are able to Gift Aid it even better – always good to get something extra from the tax man. By default, all our donations go into a general account, but should you wish yours to be for a project we have a number of areas that we can put your funds into and restrict it to that project.

The Land Fund

Apart from the request at the start of this item, we do need to increase the funding in the land fund. We are in discussions with Herefordshire Council around several items of land that we may gain due to S106 contributions, but other land in the area will need purchasing to extend the canal.

Legacy

You can't take it with you! If you could leave a legacy to the trust – small or large we don't mind – that too will help. By giving money to the H&G Trust as a registered charity this can help with your tax position within your will.

Members

Encourage your family, friends and neighbours to join and support the trust.
Thank you so much for your continued support.

Kymin

Continuing our Sunday outings, we had some tree work to do due to Storm Arwen.

A tree from the offside had fallen across the canal and blocked the towpath. The towpath work was quickly completed, enabling walkers to pass safely. The work on the branches over the canal will be revisited at the next Sunday outing to ensure the canal is clear.

Ralph Barber



Oxenhall Tidy Up in Pics



The team have been hard at work at Oxenhall over the winter. The lock side has been cleared and tidied up, work continues on restoring a section of the wall and progress is being made clearing the towpath further on towards the tunnel

Roger Coombs

Yarkhill



Work continued steadily as normal through much of the quarter: cutting back trees leaning into the hedge on the Yarkhill section and levelling the wild side on Major Barnes' section to allow access to remove cut wood.

That is until the high winds and rain of December presented us with a fallen tree stretching right across the canal on the Yarkhill section virtually blocking the wild side and restricting traffic along the towpath.



It was a call of 'all hands to the trunk' and the team enjoyed the challenge of dragging the trunk out of the canal to be cut up, and the subsequent actions to return unimpeded access to both sides of the canal. Work that has been much appreciated by our regular dog walkers.

Bob Comba

Llanthony Lock



The lock at Llanthony is a part of the H&G Canal that is not mentioned much. It is well worth the visit. Parking is available in the Castlemeads Car Park, unfortunately you have to pay.

You can then take the footpath exit at the southern edge of the car park and walk under the A430 and will see an entrance way under the old railway line that takes you along the Wysis Way and an opportunity to go through Llanthony Lock. Prior to the lock you can see a couple of mooring bollards that show how much the river has changed over the years due to the location of these bollards to the river edge, not a place to moor these days.



Thanks to the Gloucestershire Community Payback service who are now going to be visiting the site over the season. They will be clearing the undergrowth from the gateway all the way through the lock base and to the next gateway when you leave H&G canal site. You can continue a walk along the Wysis Way and following the river Severn up to the new railway bridge and also cross Telford's bridge to get to The Lock Keepers for a coffee and continue to have a look at the restored section of canal and our historic boats in Over Basin.

Ralph Barber



HEREFORDSHIRE Walking Festival 2022

If you have enjoyed this year's
Herefordshire Walking Festival
Join us next year too...

**Saturday 18th to
Sunday 26th June 2022**



HEREFORDSHIRE it's good to walk...

H&G CT 30th Anniversary Walks



Yarkhill and Kymin

As part of its 30th Anniversary Celebrations, the Trust is offering a guided walk as part of the Herefordshire Walking Festival in June.

The walk takes place on Sunday 26th June, starting at Yarkhill Village Hall at 10am and is approx 7.5 miles long. The route will go up and over Shucknall Hill and include stretches along the tow path at Kymin and Yarkhill going on to Monkhide before returning via footpaths back to the Village Hall where there will be a display about the Trust. Tea/Coffee and cake will be available with donations to the Trust.



For further details and to book on the walk check the festival website:
www.herefordshirewalkingfestival.co.uk/

Ashperton and Staplow

Phil Platt, one of our members, has kindly agreed to lead an Anniversary Walk on Saturday April 9th, free to members and volunteers. This will take in a section of the new Ashperton walk (see below) and amalgamate it with the original Staplow walk – created by our long-term trustee Nigel Jefferies. The walk will get to the Oak Inn at Staplow for lunchtime. (Lunch to be paid for separately.) The return will take in some of the morning's route and then branch off to pastures new, eventually returning to base at Ashperton. We also expect to offer some normally unavailable views of the canal.

The walk is mainly on level ground and is approx 8 miles long. Sturdy shoes or boots advisable.

You will need to register for the walk as unfortunately numbers will be limited so please book by 5th April. Details of start time will be sent out to registered walkers.

Please email walks@h-g-canal.org.uk to book your place.

As mentioned above, Phil has created a new walk for the H&G. The circular walk starts at Ashperton church and combines sections where the canal is still in water with the beautiful Herefordshire countryside and far-reaching views across to the Malverns and May Hill. It's a good long walk of 7½ miles, with numerous stiles and varying gradients. Time given to complete is around 4 hours – but you can obviously take it slower to enjoy the scenery.

You can obtain more details in Canal Walk leaflet No 7 – Ashperton via the website or it will be available at monthly socials and other Trust events.

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

CANAL WALK No. 7 ASHPERTON

This walk starts at Ashperton Church and runs alongside the remains of the canal including a section still in water. It passes the house where the canal's engineer Stephen Ballard once lived and into beautiful countryside before returning to the canal.

Location: The start of the walk is at Ashperton Church a short distance west of the A417.
Postcode: HR8 2SW OS Grid SO 643 415
What2Wants: Allocations diplomat, unspiced

Parking: There is limited parking by the church (donations appreciated)

Distance: 7.5 miles
Time: 4 hours (approx)

Canal Walks



H&G Canal Trust has updated its series of walk leaflets which explore various parts of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal.

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All proceeds towards the promotion and restoration of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal.

More details and ordering options available on the website.

Logs for Sale Proceeds to Trust Funds

These logs are processed by our volunteers from the clearance work during canal restoration. The sale of them helps to fund the cost of our work restoring the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal.

After April 2022 each log order will need to be 2 cubic metres or 3 dumpy bags @ £75 per bag



Purchases can be arranged by contacting our Malswick site team by email: malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

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Owl Boxes installed



Grateful thanks to a volunteer who made two luxurious owl boxes and to a canal-side landowner who has allowed them to be installed at a farm linked with the canal.

These are now placed for any passing owls to find and hopefully take up residence.

Ralph Barber



Social Evenings



It was lovely to see so many members in person at our first social evening of the year at the Royal Oak. Usual place, just a different day which will be our day or should I say evening going forward. We hope we can continue with the **3rd Thursday of the month** at the Royal Oak, Much Marcle, Herefordshire.

At January's social a volunteer from our Yarkhill site give us a talk on Venezuela. Harold Armitage gave us a view of his travels around that country a number of years ago. They went there especially as his wife is very fond of parrots. Harold, in his usual honest Yorkshire approach, gave his candid view of the country and its people. The country has so many good points that hopefully, although currently a troubled land, they can sort out their economy and safety for their citizens soon as the wildlife, particularly the macaws, looked fantastic.

17 March 2022 – Mike Potts

An historical journey along the H & G – and other interesting events

21 April 2022 – Gareth Callan Davies

Beer by Boat – And why IPA? Come and find out.

19 May 2022 – Paul Barnett

Cotswold Navy – land-locked as Gloucestershire is, this talk explores the region's inseparable connection with the sea and its unheralded sacrifice during Warship Week 1942.

Sadly, the price of speakers and their travelling expenses have increased dramatically so reluctantly the entrance fee will now be £2 – but please still buy a raffle ticket!

Janet is currently working hard on the programme for the rest of the year. Hopefully we will see and hear some of the speakers planned for the 2020 season – so long ago!

Friends and colleagues will be eager for the chance of a great holiday for just £1!

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

**1ST
PRIZE**

NARROW BOAT HOLIDAY for FOUR

ONE WEEK PRIOR TO 31/5/23 excluding Bank Holidays. *Donated by Black Prince Holidays*

**2ND
PRIZE**

One Day's BOAT HIRE on the MON & BREC CANAL

March – October 2023. *Donated by ABC Boat Hire*

**3RD
PRIZE**

ONE NIGHT BED & BREAKFAST for TWO

at The Lock Keepers, Over Wharf, Gloucester. *Donated by The Lock Keepers Company*

*Ticket printing kindly sponsored by River Canal Rescue
and... Yes – tickets are still just £1.00 each!!*



The prize winners will be drawn at the Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle, on 15 September 2022.

Our thanks to our friends and supporters **Black Prince Holidays**, **ABC Boat Hire** and **The Lock Keepers** for donating the holiday prizes – every pound raised is a pound towards restoration of the Canal.



As usual, members are being sent two books of tickets to sell to family and friends. If you would like more books or as a non-member wish to purchase some tickets please contact Janet Moulton via the Contact Us page on our website.

Thank you.

Janet Moulton

Promoter: Mrs J Moulton, 18 Coningsby Court, Coningsby Street, Hereford, HR1 2DF.
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Sales and Promotions Events



The team are looking forward to getting out and about again this year – these are the events we hope to be attending and engage with the public with support from our members and volunteers.

Saturday 9 April 2022	30th Anniversary Walk Ashperton/Staplow , Herefordshire.
Saturday 30 April 2022	St Richards Canal Festival , Droitwich, Worcestershire.
Saturday 4 June 2022	Ledbury Community Day , Herefordshire .
Sat/Sun 25/26 June 2022	Braunston Historic Boat Rally .
Sunday 26 June 2022	30th Anniversary Yarkhill Walk , Herefordshire Walking Festival.
Saturday 20 August 2022	Tibberton Show , Gloucestershire.
Saturday 10 September 2022	Newent Onion Fayre , Gloucestershire.
Saturday 24 September 2022	30th Anniversary Over Members Day , Gloucestershire.
Saturday 12 November 2022	Winter Fayre , Newent, Gloucestershire.

Raising awareness and funds for the Trust's work is vital in maintaining progress with the Canal's restoration. Our Sales and Information Stand can be seen at many Waterways and Country Shows during the year.

We have two small teams of volunteers based at Hereford and Gloucester to cover both local and national events. Come and visit, or better still, join us on the stand. Additional volunteers are urgently need to help us at these interesting events. Our small and friendly teams will make you very welcome!

Debbie Barber

Thank You Day



Saturday 24 September 2022 10am to 4pm

A thank you day for all our Members, Volunteers and supporters for the last 30 years of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust will be held at Over Basin, just outside Gloucester and next to The Lock Keepers GL2 8DB.

You will be able to take a boat ride on Mr Maysey, see the model boats and other water activities. Meet new and old friends and get the most up to date information about the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal and the next 30 years.

Bring your children and grandchildren so they can enjoy the water and maybe help with the restoration in the future as we restore this beautiful canal for them.

Debbie Barber



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In January we had our first face to face social of the year. Just prior to this I received an email from a member who lives across the UK and asked if they could connect to the social remotely.

So we are starting an investigation in to this.

The first question we have already answered: the Royal Oak has a network to which we could connect.

Next question is what software we would use and the best solution for this is Zoom due to a number of reasons, but it does have a cost as unfortunately Zoom has 40 minutes cut off if attending a zoom meeting for three or more people unless you pay. So here is the first question of the investigation.

If connecting remotely, would you help pay for the Zoom licence? Depending on the deal we got we are looking at about £120 per year, so if 10 people agreed to pay they would be looking about £12 per year. We run 9 socials a year. (None in the month of August, the AGM month and December.)

Coming back to the question. If you are interested in joining the socials remotely and happy to pay in part for the yearly licence, please email the following email address **remote-social@h-g-canal.org.uk** so we can capture interest.

As this Wharfinger is due on your doorsteps by the 11th/12th March, if you could give us your views by the end of March 2022 giving your view on if you are happy to pay and how much for the nine events, it then gives us time to come back to you and arrange payment if there is enough interest and agreement to see if we can get this going for the first social in April 2022.

I am sure you will have questions, like the first one I could think of is -

- Why can I not pay per viewing? Maybe in the future, but we have an upfront cost of the licence and we need to gain interest. Then if this goes ahead, maybe we have a yearly cost that has a base number of members helping with the costs and if people wish to join for only a single event we have a non-discounted rate, but this all depends on interest and how this will all work.

Another question could be,

- I can attend for £2, but you are asking for £1.33 per social. We have costs at the Royal Oak such as the hall rent that has to be paid for. You also have the opportunity to take part on the raffle, enjoy a nice pint of beer and meet with others.

Ralph Barber

WE ARE OPEN

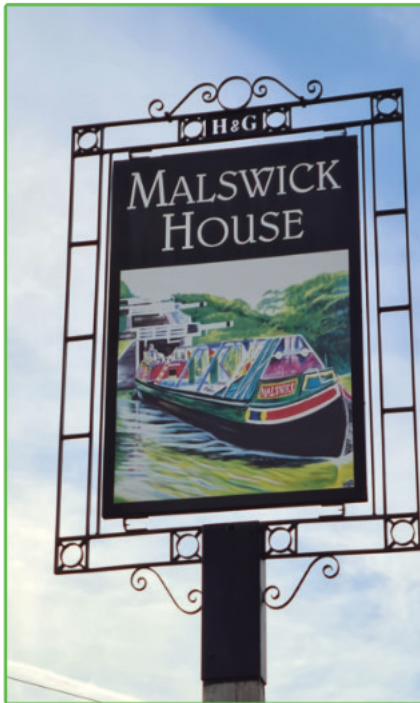
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Gloucester & District Model Boat Club

Please forgive me for opening my report on a sad note, especially to the residents who regularly walk the Over canal path. Late last year the familiar figure of wheel chair-bound Rob Strong passed away. Rob had not been sailing for about two months but was looking forward to early 2022 to resume his sailing. There is a fine photograph of Rob in the last issue of Wharfinger.

The residents of Staunton Hill at Over while having their breakfasts have heard unusual commands and firing coming from the canal. Have the very high tides brought yet another mysterious naval craft into the canal, yes. To accompany the naval fleet of the MBC we now have a Russian Corvette, Steregushchiy. Mike Price is the builder of this fine model. The hull is a purchased item but every other part Michael has constructed or moulded from scratch. You can imagine at 5ft overall the model looks impressive on the water.

Recently we had a magic motorboat day – the sun was out, and a crisp feel in the air. Seven sailors set off for the winding hole, as you navigated the long left bend so the calm waters changed into a good scale of heavy seas. The waters streamed over the bows and washed the decks, the strong wind put navigation on high alert. The narrows gradually opened which permitted the naval boats to open up. Only one casualty, at a good rate of knots one captain struck an underwater object which caused a bent propeller blade.

Micro Magic model yacht racing at the Over basin is usually quite lively. Finally the summer season competition ended with Kevin retaining his shield and Bryan receiving his plaque winning the B fleet completion. The winter competition is now well underway.

In this present climate all manner of clubs are falling by the wayside. Fortunately, we have good attendances at most sailing gatherings. A most heart-warming sight is to see a gathering of the Clubs junior members enjoying their Sunday morning sailings at Over. I think dads and grand dads are also enjoying themselves.

Ted Tedaldi



Kevin and Brian with their shields



Mike Price with his russian corvette



Youngsters enjoying the boats

Sailing4Disabled



Welcome to a New Year to all readers of this section on our activity and escapades on the water, hoping you are all keeping well, or as well as can be expected.

Really nothing much to report except for helping two swans and three ducks get a larger space on the canal at Over Wharf in January – the canal had frozen around the poor animals. We launched the Wheely boat and created a channel so that they could regain their freedom and food. Thanks to John and Monica, who have been asked by Swan Rescue to feed them up and grow from ugly ducklings to beautiful swans! Which I must admit, from when they first arrived, they've done a wonderful job.

I was given sad news recently as to the passing of a very loyal past helper when we were a sailing group. This got me to thinking as to what makes a great volunteer – to me this is a person who turns up and gets on with the work in hand and enjoys what they are doing.



Well, Dave Brindle was just that – the story goes...

... my wife noticed Dave stood outside Argos on a very wet and cold morning, holding a carrier bag and leaning on two walking sticks that were dripping with water. Being the kind woman she is (she told me to say that), she opened the door so that he could be in the dry. I've only come to buy a light bulb for a neighbour, he said. My wife, quick off the mark, asked him if he liked sailing, "never been" David said. My husband and friends are fundraising at Asda, you should go and have a look she said, they have a few sailing boats there.

So, he did, and he asked if he could join us to see what it was like as a member and learn to sail. This he did and involved his wife and the friend, who did not sail but did run a much welcome snack and drinks bar, and then a breakfast bar for the helpers. Dave, being in a wheelchair, took over the task of cooking the bacon, black pudding and eggs (now that's what you call a volunteer!). Dave insisted he did that because he could not help in getting the boats ready.

We had Challenger trimarans (these are a three- hulled boat for a single person), but we devised a seat to fit on the side at Dave's request so that he could take people out for a ride! So after breakfast, Dave used to be hoisted into this newly adapted seat with his lunch and a small radio (when cricket was on, as he was a great player and follower of cricket), every third or fourth trip he would stop for a cup of tea, or take it with him if we were busy, and even sometimes bring the cup back or say it's in the middle of the lake being washed (lost).

The point is that for some 15 years Dave turned up and didn't moan and gave a lot of



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disabled people the chance to forget their disabilities for 30 minutes or so. Oh, I forgot to say Dave at a very young age had been diagnosed with polio which had left him with calipers to help him walk, as for cricket he was a batsman with NO runs to his name (he had a runner to do that for him!) and he was a Paralympic swimmer for Great Britain in the days when it was promoted by Stoke Mandeville. Now that's what makes a great helper/volunteer. Someone who can give something back in return for their past history.

Our memories of Dave, his wife Ruth and friend Nell who are now up there organising their own sailing group. Bless you all and thank you for being part of our lives and being such an inspiration to me and others.

Pete RWB

H&G Stamps Appeal



Once again, please don't forget that we can turn anything vaguely philatelic (any used and unused stamps, old postcards, old stamp albums etc) into cash for the H&G. So, save all your used stamps, even the common ones, and hand to Janet Moulton or send direct to Steve Bence at:
35 Lime Road, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 1EQ.

Steve can also now be reached by email at stamps@h-g-canal.org.uk.

We have recently received some sizeable collections and the sum raised keeps going up and up.

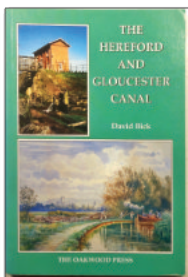
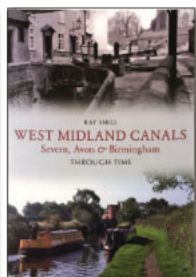
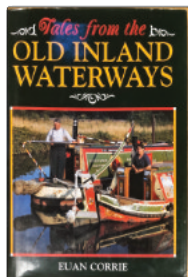


Many of our members are also volunteers, and their contribution to the canal restoration project is greatly appreciated.

There remains much to be done and more volunteers from the wider community would be very welcome.

www.h-g-canal.org.uk/support/volunteer/ or email to volunteering@h-g-canal.org.uk

Books for Sale



A large selection of good condition second-hand books – plenty more to choose from – available on our online shop.

<https://www.h-g-canal.org.uk/shop/>

All proceeds to support the Trust.

Regular Volunteer Work Parties

Volunteer work parties regularly convene at restoration sites as listed below. Please contact team leaders to check for latest situations.

Tuesdays

Malswick
Robert Heigham
malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Oxenhall/Newent Station
Roger Coombs 07801 455779
oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

Ad Hoc

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

Thursdays

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

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

Second Sunday each month

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

Wharfinger

EDITION 152

Please submit your copy for Edition 152 to the magazine editorial team no later than 29 April 2022.

Ideas, text and images by email to editor@h-g-canal.org.uk.

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Contact Details



Chair – Ralph Barber

01432 853086 chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk

Land and Environment

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Finance – Philip Marshall

01452 760301 finance@h-g-canal.org.uk

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projects@h-g-canal.org.uk

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07767 897861 healthsafety@h-g-canal.org.uk

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Wharfinger Editor – Nick Dymott

07526 254809 editor@h-g-canal.org.uk

Advertising – Ginny Birkett

01531 820345 ads@h-g-canal.org.uk

Restoration & Maintenance

maintenance@h-g-canal.org.uk

Over Site Leader – Andy Fowler

overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk

Oxenhall Site Leader – Roger Coombs

07801 455779 oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

Malswick Site Leader – Robert Heigham

01452 790498 malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Yarkhill Site Leader – Chris High

01568 615575 yarkhill@h-g-canal.org.uk

Kymin East Site Leader – Ralph Barber

01432 853086 kymineast@h-g-canal.org.uk

Hereford Team – John Pritchard

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

General enquiries –

6 Castle Street, Hereford HR1 2NL
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&GCT. A membership form is available online or from our Membership Secretary.

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Visit our website:

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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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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.

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

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We work on the Canal with the cooperation of land owners and their neighbours.
Please help us maintain good relations with them.

Thank you.



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