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Issue No 12

Summer 1997

The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton
Canals Restoration Trust



Surveyor training during the wrg weekend held at Darnford recently

THE TRUST

The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited was established in 1988 as a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee (No. 2456172) and is registered as a charity (No. 702429).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Eric Wood	6 Swan Cottages, Burton Road, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffs.WS14 9NP.	01543 432231
Vice-Chairman	Phil Sharpe	34 Old Eaton Road, Rugeley, Staffs. WS15 2EZ	01889 583330
Secretary	Brian Kingshott	The Royal Wolverhampton School, Penn Road, Wolverhampton.WV3 0EG	01902 341230
Treasurer	Nick Grazebrook	Steps Cottage, Wolverley, Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 3RN	01562 850553
Hatherton Projects	Denis Cooper	Gorsey Lane Farm, Little Wyrley, Pelsall, Walsall,WS3 5AJ	01543 374370
Lichfield Projects	John Horton	32 London Road, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9EJ	01543 262466
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Marketing	Bob Williams	Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, Staffs.,WS7 0JP	01543 671427
Membership	Trevor Morris	163 Halton Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.,B73 6NZ	0121 3547952

Co-opted members

Magazine Editor Stephen Pitt 9 Silkmore Lane, Stafford.,ST17 4JN
(mobile phone) 0370 586978

Lichfield Cruising Lindy Parkin 28 Beech Drive, Stretton, Burton-on-Trent,
Club Representative Staffs DE13 0DY

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Trust Vice-Chairman, Phil Sharpe reports on recent developments.

Cut Both Ways.

Your committee were very pleased with the content and layout of CBW11, the first under our new editor, and we know from your comments that it was well received. Initial production technicalities limited the resolution of the photographs used, but we hope that this has now been overcome. If you have any suitable topical photos please send a copy to Steve for future editions.

Marketing.

Marketing, led by Bob Williams, goes from strength to strength and is now making a significant contribution to our funding, as well as spreading the message through attendance at shows and rallies. Both videos and pens are selling well and some of the profits are being ploughed back into production of an attractive new recruitment leaflet, aimed more at the general public than the 2 separate technical information leaflets used hitherto.

Membership.

In this issue we welcome our first Group Members, Wolverhampton Boat Club and Lancaster Boat Club. Welcome also to our first Life members and Family members. Perhaps some of our Adult members will consider upgrading to Family membership. We hope that couples currently both subscribing as Adult members will continue to do so, or perhaps add the difference as a donation if changing to Family membership. An update of the full list of members, as published in CBW11, appears elsewhere in this issue, and Trevor plans to include this as a regular feature.

Donations.

We have been particularly fortunate this last quarter to receive some significant grants and donations to supplement our income from subscriptions and sales. These include £3,400 from Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust and the balance of a £1,000 Heritage Grant from Lichfield District Council, both for work at Fosseway Lane. Donations of £500 each from IWA Middlesex and South London Branches and £750 expected from IWA London Region from their Draw proceeds will help fund this year's Canal Camps work at Darnford Lane, as will £500 on its way from IWA Lichfield Branch. A grant of £5,000 from the Wm.A.Cadbury Charitable Trust was a nice surprise, particularly as we had only asked for £3,000 initially ! continued over

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (cont)

This came from an appeal to various grant giving Trusts initiated by Neil Tulloch during his short but very productive period on Council. Other donors include £215 from our regular supporter Dr T. Hollingworth, £50 from the Institute of Plant Engineers, and £100 from the Inland Revenue ! (for tax reclaimed on covenanted subscriptions). To these, and our many other supporters who have contributed smaller amounts and donations in kind, many thanks. You have made Nick our Treasurer a very happy man !

Funding Bids.

At the time of writing the outcome of our major funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is still unknown. Smaller, but no less vital, bids to charitable trusts, industry and the Department of Environment have also been submitted, and the successes reported above are most encouraging. Mike continues to put much effort into this most vital part of our activities.

Fosseway Lane.

Fosseway Lane is our fastest moving restoration site and substantial progress has been made in recent months. Our own monthly work parties led by John (1st Sunday of each month) have been supplemented by several weekend visits from the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG), and the restoration of Lock 18 is coming along nicely. A fuller report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Hatherton.

Work on rebuilding the parapets of Saredon Mill Bridge No. 4 has now started, and good progress with the bricklaying is being made by Denis assisted by a small band of helpers. More volunteers for the 3rd Sunday of each month would be welcome and enable us to continue towpath levelling and maintenance without stopping the building work.

WRG Training Weekend.

When WRG first approached us to hold a Training weekend at Darnford Lane at the end of May we were not at first sure what to expect. They were no doubt attracted by its central location, the Rugby Club baths, and the thought of all that sand to dig in ! So we arranged the accommodation, loaned them our plant, provided some bricks and fuel (courtesy of Ray Bower) and they did the rest. An amazing variety of loaned machinery appeared and over 60 people from all over the country learned how to drive, excavate, load, dumper, pump, lay bricks, survey, telford, do first aid, catering and much more, and amazingly it all ran to timetable.

VICE-CHAIRMANS NOTES (cont.)

It was undoubtedly a great success, although strictly training, so the holes were all filled in again and the trial walls knocked down as fast as they were built. A few navvies did manage to find time to help us at Fossey Lane where we were doing our own (permanent) bricklaying, keeping well out of the way and thinking ruefully what we could achieve if resources like that were available every week. But we have benefited greatly from WRG's help over the years and were happy to be able to repay them by providing the venue for training their leaders and regular volunteers in skills which can be put to good use in the future.

Publicity.

Although currently without a publicity officer, the Trust's excellent press coverage continues, helped by Jan Horton and others. 2 photo-features in the Lichfield Chronicle in April showed both the WRG BITM weekend at Fossey Lane in February, and also the April visit of WRG Northwest. This was followed by a call for more volunteers for work parties in the Express & Star, and a picture of our newly erected notice board at Fossey Lane in the Lichfield Chronicle. The Express & Star then carried an excellent picture of May and Michael Brown in traditional boating costume at The Boat Inn. However they said we were celebrating the Trust's bi-centenary, rather than the canal's - I hate to think how old that makes Eric ! The WRG Training Weekend was also featured in pictures in the Lichfield Chronicle in June, showing a considerable local interest in our activities.

LHCRT on the Internet.

Information on waterways can now be found at many sites on the Internet and the Trust too is getting connected. The "anoraks" amongst you might like to know that the text of our two information leaflets on The Restoration of the Lichfield Canal and the Hatherton Canal can be found on David Withers home pages at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/barge>

Motorways.

The result of the review of the M6 Widening scheme was announced in March, abandoning the Parallel Widening scheme and reverting to the cheaper alternative of widening by one lane on each side. As yet no details have been made available as to how this would affect the Hatherton Canal at Calf Heath, although there could now be less opportunity to replace the existing drowned culvert as part of the reconstruction works.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (cont.)

However, with the change of Government and transport priorities it is uncertain whether this project will proceed. If it does, then we shall be arguing strongly for the original blockage to be removed.

The Birmingham Northern Relief Road Public Inquiry Inspector's Report has apparently now been completed. The outgoing Government was in no hurry to decide on such a controversial proposal and the new Government has other priorities. First of these is to combine the Departments of Transport and Environment, which may result in more attention being paid in road schemes to the environmental costs, including the costs of preventing canal restorations and the economic, social and environmental benefits they bring. We hope the new administration will thoroughly review this before deciding on the report. It is certainly a relief that John Watts will not be making the decision.

Golf Course.

Our canal at Darnford Lane looks likely to be surrounded by a golf course, following approval of a planning application by Lichfield District Council in May. The application for Change Of Use from agricultural land has been made by owners of the nearby Swingers golf driving range and is for two 9 hole courses. However, the consent does not yet include details of the layout, drainage, landscaping, access, parking or clubhouse location and we hope to be consulted on these to protect our interests. A well laid out course could look attractive but constant disturbance from vehicles and flying golf balls would not be acceptable.

AGM.

The AGM is now fixed for Saturday 20th September at 2.15pm and followed by site visits and a barbecue to attract more interest. It will be held at Whittington Village Hall with the barbecue at our Chairman's house at 6 Swan Cottages, Burton Road, Whittington. The timing depends on auditing the 1996 accounts which are generously done free for us but consequently can't be rushed. We hope to see you there. If you are stopping for the barbecue at about 5pm, please let Eric know in advance if possible.

Philip Sharpe, Vice-Chairman, L&HCR

The opinions and views expressed in Cut Both Ways do not necessarily represent those of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

Bi-Centenary Celebration of opening the Wyrley & Essington Canal, Ogley Section.

200 years exactly to the day, on 8th May Eric Wood and Bob Williams explained in a live programme with Jenny Wilkes on BBC Radio WM how the opening of the Wyrley & Essington Canal, Ogley Section was stated at the time to "open more easy communication between the ports of Hull and Bristol" etc.

Thanks to research by Janette Horton, the actual announcement printed in Aris's Birmingham Gazette had been found. This gave a good opportunity to publicise the restoration work and make an appeal for funds, but not without Eric "ducking" wildlife issues on the canals today!

On Sunday, 11th May despite poor weather, a good number of members and friends met at The Boat inn on Walsall Road near Lichfield directly beside the old canal. A barbecue and traditional displays by the Lichfield Morris Men were followed by a ceremonial unveiling of a commemorative brass plaque generously donated to the Trust by Laurence Hogg and Bob Williams. Chairman Eric Wood thanked those who had already worked hard towards restoring what is now termed the "Lichfield Canal" and hoped it would not be too long before we would again see boats tying up at The Boat and in Lichfield.

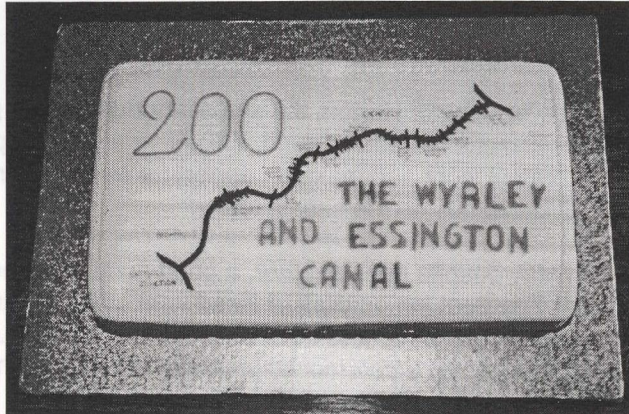


Lichfield Morris Men Team

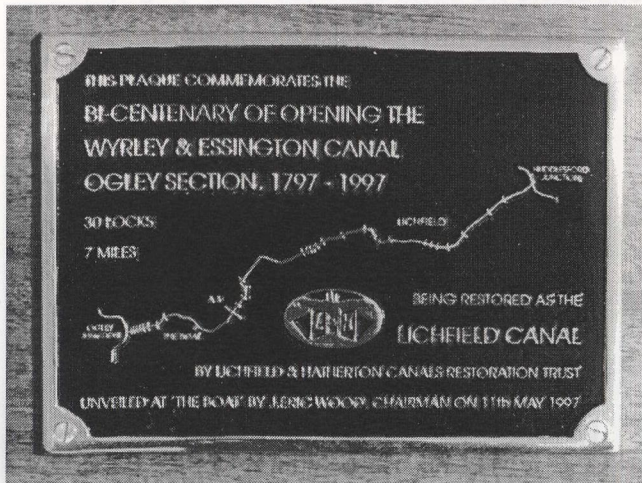
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Bi-Centenary (cont.)

A huge "birthday cake" beautifully made by Gaynor Fryer and iced with a map of the Canal had been kindly donated by Janette Horton. This added a particularly memorable feature with enough to serve also to all the evening guests who had come to The Boat to enjoy a more modern jazz evening.



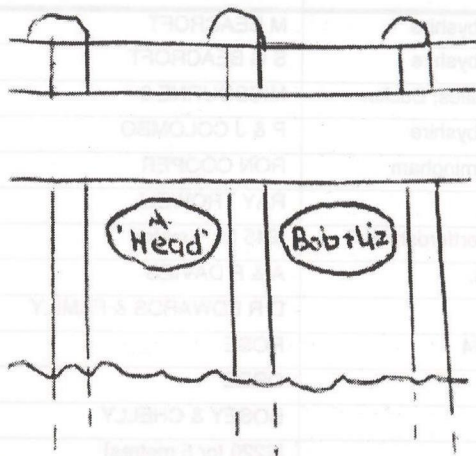
Eric reminded them that the plaque now installed inside carried that day's date and hoped they felt part of a very special occasion recalling 200 years of local history.



Commemorative brass plaque

If you "missed the boat" you will get a friendly welcome there when you call to see these items on permanent display.

Dedicated Piling Appeal



Enjoy a lasting tribute by making a tangible contribution to restoring our Canals.

Sponsor piling for the Lichfield Canal with your inscription attached to it for posterity.

ONLY £15 EACH

..... AND DON'T FORGET THE FAMILY!

An inscription of up to 10 letters can be embossed in a metal strip attached to each pile to identify your contribution.

The Lichfield Canal needs lots of steel piling installed to protect its banks from future erosion. It is hoped we can have the first part done by Waterways Recovery Group volunteer workers during Summer 1997.

This would be on the newly excavated channel east of Darnford Lane, opposite the old Lock 29 where there will be a new winding hole for full-length boats. Arrangements to visit the site can be made through any Committee Member (see page 2).

**PLEASE USE THE ORDER FORM OVERLEAF TO
SUBMIT YOUR DONATION AND INSCRIPTION(S).**

DEDICATED PILING APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

(up to press date, 15 June 97)

NAMES (alphabetical)	RESIDENTIAL AREA	INSCRIPTIONS ON PILES
Beacroft, M.	Alfreton, Derbyshire	M BEACROFT
Beacroft, S. G.	Alfreton, Derbyshire	S G BEACROFT
Carden, R.	Chalfont St.Giles, Bucks.	MISBOURNE 3
Colombo, P. F.	Alfreton, Derbyshire	P & J COLOMBO
Cooper, Miss S.	Stirchley, Birmingham	RON COOPER
		RAY TROWELL
Danbury, G.	St.Albans, Hertfordshire	[£45 for 1 metre]
Davies, A.	Stone, Staffs.	A & P DAVIES
Edwards, M. & D.	Lichfield	D R EDWARDS & FAMILY
Freeman, R.	London, SE14	ROSE
		ORDE
		BOSEY & CHELLY
Greyhound Boat Club	Derby	[£220 for 5 metres]
Henry, B.	Wolverhampton	BARRY HENRY
Horton, J. & J.	Lichfield	THE HORTONS
Kenyon-Smith, P. & J.	Abbots Bromley, Staffs.	PETER & JANE
King, J.H.	Walton-on-Thames, Surrey	JOHN H KING
Kingshott, B.	Wolverhampton	B K 1997
Matthews, P.	Burntwood, Staffs.	L H C R T / PM
		L H C R T / PM
		L H C R T / PM
		L H C R T / PM
M.B.Textiles	South Normanton, Derby	M.B.TEXTILES
Mosse, J. & J.	Leominster, Herefordshire	JANE MOSSE
		LIZ MOSSE
Parkes, B. & A.	Tamworth	A & B PARKES
Preece, G.	Burntwood, Staffs.	G & B PREECE
Smith, M. H.	Whittington, Lichfield	MIKE SMITH
Williams, R. O. & S. P.	Burntwood, Staffs.	WILLIAMS x 6
Wood, J. E.	Whittington, Lichfield	THOMAS WOOD
		MATTHEW WOOD
		AMY BARKER
		BECKY BARKER
Woodward, J. M.	Ashbourne, Derbyshire	WOODWARD

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

PRODUCT ORDER FORM Date _____

ITEM	DETAIL	PRICE	No.	TOTAL
Video, BCN Pt. 6	"THE LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS"	£14.95		#£
T-Shirt	* Medium / Large / Extra Large * White / Grey / Navy	£10.00		#£
Sweatshirt	* Medium / Large / Extra Large * Grey / Navy	£16.50		#£
Ball-point pens	with L H C R T name Bundle of 5	£2.50		£
Dedicated piling, Lichfield Canal (max.10 letters)	Inscription: _____ (additional requests should be listed overleaf)	£15.00 each		£
* please indicate your choice		TOTAL COST		£
		plus £1.50 P&P each item marked #		£
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES		I WISH TO MAKE A DONATION OF		£
PAYABLE TO: L.H.C.R.T.Ltd		TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED		£

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS OVERLEAF

MARKETING SUCCESS

A big **THANK YOU** must be said to everyone who has contibuted very generously of their funds - and many who have given their time and effort - to supporting the Trust through purchases, dedications, donations and ideas. Many non-members too have noticed our appeals in the press and at various Shows and shown their enthusiasm for the restoration in a tangible way. A special mention must be made of Tim Coughlan of the Braunston Boat Show who contributed £500 during our presence there at the end of May.

Marketing began at the end of last year with a nominal target of raising £1,000 in a year by whatever means. However, we have been able to raise twice as much in half the time! A total of £2,000 has already gone towards the cost of restoration work. Again, THANKS TO EVERYONE and please encourage your friends to follow your lead.



CAN WE MAKE THIS £3,000 FOR THE YEAR?

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust
PRODUCT ORDER FORM (see overleaf)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Additional piling
inscriptions: _____

Please send with payment to: BOB WILLIAMS, NORFOLK HOUSE,
29 HALL LANE, HAMMERWICH, BURNTWOOD, STAFFS. WS7 0JP



NOTICE!

The Annual General Meeting of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd is to be held at Whittington Village Hall, Whittington, Nr

Lichfield on Saturday,

20th September 1997 at 2.15pm.

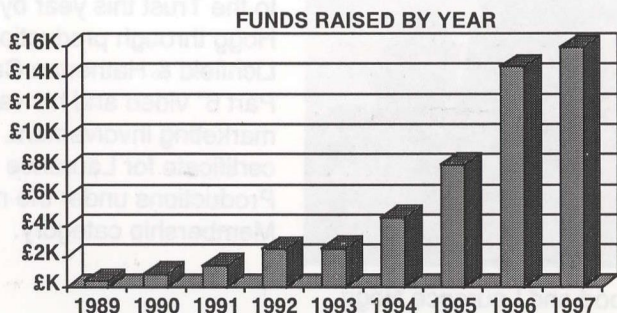
*This will be followed by a social event with site visits
and a barbecue so everyone is welcome.*

PLEASE MAKE A DIARY NOTE OF THIS EVENT

1997 IS GOING WELL - A FUND-RAISING UPDATE

We are now approximately half way through the year and we have already raised as much as we did in the whole of last year. (See the pillar graph below).

This success comes from an excellent effort from all sections of the Trust. Our membership numbers are up and the covenanting scheme is enabling us to claim back money from the Inland Revenue and that always feels good!. We have received a large number of small (and a few not so small) sums as donations from individuals - many, but not all, of them Trust members. Together these make up some £1,300. We have applied to a number of Charitable Trusts and have received some valuable grants. In particular we would like to acknowledge donations of £5,000 from the William A Cadbury Charitable Trust and £3,400 from the Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust. Over £2,500 has been received from various Branches and Regions of the IWA. The IWA Lichfield Branch and West Midlands Region have always been generous supporters but this year we have received handsome sums from as far away as London



The Lichfield District Council has paid £1,000 in the form of a Heritage Grant for work on Lock 18 and various boat clubs have together contributed a further £600.

This report is based on the state of play at the end of May and I am aware that there is still more money in the pipeline. Bob Williams has written a separate report in this issue dealing with the activities of the Marketing Group and the Dedicated Piling Appeal. Putting all this together we can confidently state that the Trust is in a healthier financial state than ever before
- thank you all for a splendid effort.

Mike Smith
Fund-raising Director

Special Memberships

The opportunity was taken at the Bi-Centenary Party to acknowledge three names under our new Life and Group Membership categories.

As our special guest for the day, Jeremy Nichols from Surrey received a certificate in recognition of Life Membership awarded by the Friends of this Trust for his substantial contribution through **Mindex** for arranging postal distribution of our "Cut Both Ways" magazines over many years



Jeremy Nichols

Eric Wood also presented a certificate to the first actual Life Member of the Trust, our Vice-Chairman, Phil Sharpe whose dedication to the restoration movement, and indeed many other Inland Waterway interests is quite exceptional.



Considerable support has been given to the Trust this year by Laurence Hogg through production of "The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals, BCN Part 6" video and his valuable marketing involvement. He received a certificate for Laurence Hogg Productions under the new Group Membership category.

Eric Wood and Laurence Hogg

membership rates are as follows.

Adult		£10
Junior	Under 18 years of age	£5
Concessionary	Student, Retired, or Unemployed	£5
Family	2 Adults & Children at same address	£15
Life	(once only)	£200
Group	Societies, clubs, small businesses	£25
Corporate	Large businesses	£200

Thank you Ray

On behalf of waterway recovery group the Trust would like to thank **Streethay Wharf** for donating the fuel for their training weekend where a total of ten varied machines were used for driver training.



Lichfield 200 years ago

Wolverhampton, May 8, 1797.
Wyrley and Essington Canal.

THE Public are respectfully informed, that this Canal, which joins the Birmingham Canal near Wolverhampton, with the Coventry Canal near Lichfield, and opens a more easy Communication between the Ports of Hull and Bristol, the Towns of Wolverhampton and Walsall, and the Cities of Lichfield, Coventry, and Oxford, and thereby affords an additional Supply of Coal from the Mines of Brownhills, Essington, and Blisstone, and of Lime from the Works of Linley and Rushall, was opened for the Passage of Boats this Day.

(Courtesy of Birmingham Record Library)

This announcement was published in Aris's Birmingham Gazette informing the public that the Wyrley and Essington Canal was opened on 8th May 1797, connecting the Birmingham Canal (at Catshill junction) with the Coventry Canal (at Huddlesford Junction). Similar notices were published in other newspapers including those of Hull and Bristol, as these were active ports.

Up to that time the only way to transport goods was by horse and cart on rough roads. The canal system was an innovation in this country which greatly reduced the price of coal, essential for the vast expansion during the Industrial Revolution. The industries of the 18th and 19th Centuries relied upon huge quantities of cheap coal and the canal provided an economical system of transport. One horse could pull a canal boat carrying 25 tons, whereas a horse and cart on the road could carry only 3 tons.

In 1794 the Wyrley and Essington obtained a Supplementary Act of Parliament for an extension of their line from Birchill's junction, to run between Bloxwich and Pelsall to the colliery area at Brownhills and then falling by 30 locks past Lichfield to join the Coventry Canal at Huddlesford junction.

The Wyrley and Essington canal in Lichfield was active from 1797 up to the Second World War. It brought cheap coal to the city of Lichfield and by 1799 cheap coal was being sold at a wharf provided by the corporation. In 1818, two coal merchants ran businesses from a wharf where the canal met Upper St. John Street.

continued over

Lichfield 200 years ago (cont.)

The two busiest wharfs were the ones each side of the London Road. However there were at least six wharfs in Lichfield and in 1817 it was stated that an average of 606 boats per year unloaded 10,302 tons of goods.

Besides coal, the canal transported ironstone, lime-stone, timber, corn, bone, and other goods to Lichfield. There were limekilns next to the canal at Muckley Corner which ceased working in the 1800's, and a limemaster at the canalside in Birmingham Road. There were bone mills at Birmingham Road and near Chesterfield Road.

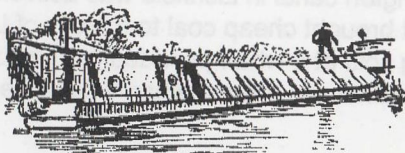
In 1806 the miller of the bonehouse near Chesterfield Road, whose name was Thomas Wood, was ordered to stop production following a complaint by the vicar of St. Mary's that the works was 'a noisome and offensive building and a great nuisance to the inhabitants of the city'. However, he was still in business in 1818 and the bone-house was still there in 1836.

The Wyrley and Essington Canal through Lichfield took from 1794 to 1797 to build, and the chief engineer was William Pitt. The canal originally had a water supply problem, which was resolved by creating a reservoir at Norton Pool, later renamed Chasewater in 1956.

Since the Second World War the canal has been little used and in the early 1950's it was used mainly only by maintenance boats. The Lichfield stretch of the canal was officially closed in 1954 and part of it was filled in soon after its closure. The canal was eventually sold by British Waterways in the 1960's.

Now 200 Years since the opening, the canal is being actively and enthusiastically restored. The restoration project of 7 miles and 30 locks, when completed will once again connect the Birmingham Canals at Brownhills to the Coventry Canal at Huddlesford. Instead of working boats carrying essential materials and goods, it will bring colourful boats, tourism and leisure activities to the city. Lichfield has for too long forgotten it's canal history, and it is now time for a canal revival.

Janette Horton.



A BRIDGE NOT QUITE FAR ENOUGH!

How did you spend Easter? Playing bridge possibly but not like John Horton, Mick Brown and Bob Williams did. Earlier this year, Chesterfield Canal Society offered the Trust a redundant lift bridge - a real British Waterways steel one formerly on the Peak Forest Canal - the very thing needed at Darnford to enable the towpath to cross over the Canal (in due course). And this just for the trouble of fetching it from a farmyard beyond Chesterfield; urgently, as the farm was to be sold.

Armed with a mighty mobile crane and a lorry, kindly made available from John's Company, William Sharp (Structural) Ltd, they set off from The Boat where Peter and Maureen Keen had kindly permitted over-night parking. Having first dealt with a roadside puncture repair to the crane, the need to travel slowly in holiday traffic made a pleasant change, giving time to enjoy the attractive Derbyshire countryside on a beautiful day. Good directions and easy access made it a text-book bridge lift (so to speak) and south it came with no trouble at all - well not until about 100 yards from its destination at Darnford.

Winter rains brought treachery to the familiar track, letting the 20-ton crane down to its axles in sand and clay! Even with its own huge jacks, three hours' efforts packing timber and earth beneath the wheels failed to extract the beast from its hold. They say problems come in threes and indeed all this unusual activity put the crane's engine out of action! Thanks to Jan Horton for the "field service" and Lichfield Rugby Club who allowed the loaded lorry to be parked there over-night. With a fresh approach in the morning, Mick recovered The vehicle single-handed!

Parts of the bridge will be refurbished at John's works to rejoin those at Darnford, and we are looking to arrange with Waterways Recovery Group to install the foundations for the bridge this summer. Look for the progress report in the next issue on this rare feature as a future gateway to the Northern BCN.

Bob Williams

NEW!

Order now your copy of the all-new

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Video !

This is No. 6,
the latest in the very popular
BCN Series produced by Laurence Hogg.

Further Focus on Fosseway

The visit of BITM in February involved much cutting out and replacement of bricks in the main walls of lock 18, also those required to make good the invert of the top chamber and the weir chamber, about 650 bricks altogether.

Particular thanks to Peter Matthews who provided some re-claimed materials for this and for the timber walkway over the weir. A lorry load of clay was ordered from Brownhills which enabled the April working party to puddle and install a stop plank to create the beginning of a top pound, the water then flowing via a shorter temporary pipe to the drop shaft.

Visits by two further WRG groups, North West on 12th and 13th April and Navvies Anonymous the following weekend, removed the remains of the timber head beam and completed the brickwork to the lock walls including making good the broken sill stone at the head of the lock. They also cut out a recess and installed a permanent ladder.

Peter Chandler supplied and erected an official sign by the entrance to put us on the map here.

Following an application to the Conduit Lands Trust in February we were pleasantly surprised to receive a cheque for £3,400 in April which will pay for the ladder some further excavation and general landscaping around the lock, bench and stile etc.

It is interesting to note that it is only just a year since we started to excavate the lock from what was then a landfill site. If only we could average a lock per annum.!

We expect one further visit from WRG in July before transferring to Darnford.

John Horton

LICHFIELD AND HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LTD.

Registered Charity No. 702429

Principal Aims : To promote the restoration of the Wyrley and Essington Canal from Ogley Junction to Huddlesford Junction (the "Lichfield Canal"), and the Hatherton Branch of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, and also the construction of a navigable link between the Hatherton Branch and the Can-nock Extension Canal.

new members up to 15/05/1997

Mr J E Phillips	Lichfield	Dr R W Squires	London
Mrs M E Phillips	Lichfield	Mrs M Bearcroft	Alfreton
Mr M Jelley	Exmouth	Mr R D Carson	Cannock
Mr K Dennington	Wolverhampton	Stafford Boat Club	Stafford
Mr C J Cork	Sutton Coldfield	Mrs S E Attwood	Lichfield
Mr J N Potts	Hammerwich	Mr D J Bailey	Lichfield
Mr N Pallett	Lichfield	Mrs N Pallett	Lichfield
Mr M H L Farrant	Lichfield	Mrs S E P Farrant	Lichfield
Mr D Houghton	Barton	Mr J C Beaney	Nuneaton
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton	Lancaster Canal	Bamber
Boat Club		Boat Club	Bridge
Middle Nene	Desborough		
Cruising Club			

Editorial

The next edition of Cut Both Ways will be the Autumn issue in October. Press date is 15th September (please note that this is the final date for submission). Any articles or letters, either typed or on computer disc, should be sent to the Editor by that date.

Trust membership details and information from the Membership Secretary address on page 2



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 ★ SPECIAL THANKS TO FABORY ★
 ★ FOR GENEROUSLY DONATING ★
 ★ THEIR CRAFTSMANSHIP IN ★
 ★ REWORKING THE BOLTS FOR ★
 ★ SECURING THE NEW TOP CILL ★
 ★ ON LOCK 18 AT FOSSEWAY. ★
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WORKING PARTIES: JULY - DECEMBER 1997

Working Parties are now being held on the first and third Sundays of each month, alternating between the two canals, as shown below. On the Lichfield Canal we are working on two sections of canal, at Darnford Lane south east of Lichfield and at Fosseway Lane south west of the city. On the Hatherton we are working on 1.1/2 miles of canal south west of Cannock. Work includes cutting down undergrowth, laying and planting hedges, relaying the towpath, reinstating the channel, and rebuilding bridges, locks and culvert. There are a variety of tasks available for the fit and not so fit.

LICHFIELD CANAL

Dates:	Times
Sun 6th July	10am - 4pm
Sat 19th July to Sat. 2nd August	
Sun 7th Sept.	10am - 4pm
Sun 5th Oct.	10am - 4pm
Sun 2nd Nov.	10am - 3pm
Sun 7th Dec.	10am - 3pm

HATHERTON CANAL

Dates:	Times:
Sun 20th July	10am - 4pm
WRG Canal Camps	
Sun 17th Aug.	10am - 4pm
Sun 21st Sept.	10am - 4pm
Sun 19th Oct.	10am - 4pm
Sun 16th Nov.	10am - 3pm
Sun 21st Dec.	10am - 3pm

Lichfield Canal work parties are initially at Fosseway Lane, access by the railway level crossing between Pipehill and Sandfields, Lichfield (SK 101 079). To find the Darnford Lane site (SK 139 086) from Lichfield take the A51, cross over the A38 and turn left in front of the "Horse & Jockey" down the narrow lane to the junction with Darnford Lane.

Hatherton work parties will meet at Saredon Mill Bridge near Four Crosses (SJ 947 089). This is easy accessible off the A5 just west of Cannock.

However, alternative locations or additional dates may be arranged as required. For confirmation of the meeting point or for other information contact Phil Sharpe at 34 Old Eaton Road, Rugeley, Staffordshire. WS15 2EZ. Tel. 01889-583330.

Or, you can contact our two local Working Party Organisers direct on:

Lichfield Canal	John Horton, 01543-262466 (home).
Hatherton Canal	Denis Cooper, 01543-374370 (work.)