



£1.00 (Free to Members)

Issue No 32 SUMMER 2002

*The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton  
Canals Restoration Trust*



Presentation of the Kenneth Goodwin Trophy to Trust Chairman Brian Kingshott by IWA Chairman Richard Drake and Deputy Chairman Liz Payne at Crick Boat Show. (photo Bob Williams)

Social evening with Music & Supper  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at Burntwood  
See page 11 for details

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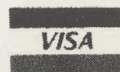
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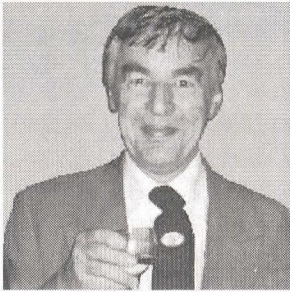
**Trent & Mersey Canal**

# **KINGS BROMLEY WHARF**



**V.A.T No. 203321527**

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



For the moment, the work of the Trust seems to have assumed a more normal pace of activity. After several years of unremitting pressure and activity this is a welcome, if somewhat deceptive, state of affairs. As I have observed before in this column, we must soon take a measured over-all view of what we are doing and how we should be doing it. I am hopeful that by the autumn we will be able to achieve a situation which at least approaches this ideal. The Strategy Review, undertaken by Mike Smith and Robert Davies should be ready for

discussion in the near future.

The deceptive aspect of this situation exists as we await the outcome of several crucial developments which come from the Trust's involvement in the building of the M6 Toll Motorway. The abutments and central column for the Cranebrook Valley Aqueduct near Muckley Corner are scheduled to be built in late summer. Funding for this has come by drawing on a substantial amount of the £250,000 made available to us by the Manifold Trust. These works are in the hands of the motorway builders (CAMBBA) and the motorway concessionaires (Midland Expressway) who are working for the Highways Agency. Meanwhile, the Trust is doing its utmost to raise the additional sums required to order the fabrication and installation of the steel trough to take the Lichfield Canal across the new motorway. There is a steady flow of funds to the David Suchet Appeal and the Trust has made applications to several national grant-giving organisations. We can make no further moves until we are confident of the funding. Our aim is to install the trough in the later stages of road construction in the later part of 2003.

The support of the members in the raising of much of the money and in supporting the work of the Trust has been phenomenal. This is seen in many ways but nowhere more clearly than in the way members, and very many others, turned out on 21<sup>st</sup> April to take part in the Walk of the Lichfield Canal. Over 2000 people, plus dogs, took part in the Walk which attracted a great deal of attention. By mid-morning the tide of people sweeping down Tamworth Road made it appear that there was a mass evacuation of Lichfield taking place. The walk was started by Lichfield M.P., Michael Fabricant, and was incorporated into the twinning ceremonies organised by Lichfield City Council. The atmosphere was both relaxed and electric at the same time. When we put this alongside 400 people who attended our public meetings in Lichfield and Cannock the popularity of our restoration work seems beyond question.

*(continued over)*

## **CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)**

I must pay tribute to all those who helped organise the Walk before, during and after the event. The Marketing Group worked tirelessly to see that everything worked smoothly while John and Janette Horton seemed to be everywhere and worked amazing hours to see the event through to success. We were grateful to very many groups and organisations for their input. Lichfield City Council, Lichfield District, Lichfield Tourism and many others helped and supported in many ways. Waterways Recovery Group, our own volunteers plus friends and family played invaluable parts. Lichfield Cruising Club opened up their site for us and all the land owners were co-operative. To the many I have omitted from this list I apologise.

By the time Cut Both Ways appears again in the autumn the way ahead should be clearer. In the meanwhile, I thank all our members for your unfailing support. Please spread the news of what we are doing far and wide. If each one of us enrolled just one new member our membership and regular income would double. Now there's a challenge for the summer.

*Brian Kingshott*



Brian Kingshott, Michael Fabricant M.P. and Phil Sharpe  
at the start of the Lichfield Canal Walk. (photo Jan Horton)

## **GRAND PRIZE DRAW**

We must admit to being victims of our own success this year! In CBW 31, it said we were including THREE books of Draw tickets with the mailing to members. However, sales had been so good, and membership numbers up that after committing the magazine to print, we could only spare TWO books with most magazines to keep sufficient for sales at the summer shows. Thanks to many who kindly pointed this out with their returns, and to those who asked for a few more books to be sent out. A pleasing aspect has been that many members took the opportunity to add a donation to their remittance to assist our fund-raising. Thank you all for a great response!

**As a reminder, the Draw will not take place until 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2002, so there is plenty of time to buy (or sell?) outstanding tickets and return the counterfoils with payment to the promoter named on them.**

**IF YOU HAVE TICKETS TO SPARE,  
PLEASE SEND THEM BACK TO US TO SELL ELSEWHERE.**

*Bob Williams, Finance Director*



Hatherton Canal. Construction of M6 Toll culvert 144 near Walkmill Lane.  
(photo Phil Sharpe)

**Donations to the David Suchet Appeal**  
**Amounts over £15 from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2002.**

|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| C Gregory, Oakmoss Ltd (additional)   | T Hagan                  |
| David Blackford (additional)          | H J R Dermott            |
| J K W & Mrs Pearse                    | D J Litchfield           |
| Mike & Helen Shimell (additional)     | Mrs C A Prosser          |
| IWA, Kent & East Sussex Branch        | Christopher J Blyth      |
| Mrs J V Gunningham (additional)       | Peter G Kirchoff         |
| Ron W Elder (additional)              | R H Dixon                |
| J L Norton (additional)               | L J Shephard             |
| Dr G T Whitfield (additional)         | D H Wilkinson            |
| Ms D C Griffiths (California, USA)    | R Kelley                 |
| C D Doyle                             | T P Bass                 |
| Mrs G Hodges                          | W B Brown                |
| David Hodgkinson                      | C P Dick                 |
| John Robinson                         | N Hankin                 |
| Kenneth R Cann                        | M H Westley              |
| Mrs Susan Bullock (additional)        | A I Stewart              |
| J Francis Holroyd (additional)        | R C Gumbrell             |
| C W Groves (additional)               | G Hayward                |
| IWA Sales at NEC Show (Feb.02)        | Mrs A L Ellis            |
| S R Alexander (additional)            | B J Holloway             |
| T & M Wheeldon (additional)           | Terry E Brown            |
| The Aluminium Powder Co. Ltd (add'l)  | Eldon J Pincher          |
| J A Oliver (additional)               | W M Franklin             |
| IWA Lichfield Branch (additional)     | H Matraives              |
| Dick & Chris Mantle (additional)      | Miss H E Scott           |
| Hatherton Parish Council              | A K Brock                |
| Mrs J M Faulkner (additional)         | A G Walduck              |
| R J Fenton (additional)               | Dr Ian M Thompson        |
| P W Vening (additional)               | R A Smith (additional)   |
| BFS Group Ltd, t/a "3.6.6.3"          | F W P Lea (additional)   |
| Rotary Club of Brownhills             | C K Collins              |
| Dr J L Bonsall (additional pledge)    | A D Brookes (additional) |
| Kings Bromley Jubilee collection      | W H Cole (additional)    |
| Southampton Canal Soc'ty (additional) | Norman D Lye             |
| Froud's Bridge Marina Ltd             | Anonymous                |
| (paid 2 year pledge in advance)       |                          |

**1998 DATA PROTECTION ACT**

The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd will hold your details for marketing purposes in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act. If you do not wish to receive updates from the Trust or any third party with whom we co-operate then please advise the Trust through Director Bob Williams on 01543 671427.

## REBUILDING THE OGLEY LOCKS (1843 - 1850)

Ray Shill is well known locally for his historical research on the Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN) and has published the results in several books and in articles in Boundary Post, the BCN Society magazine. Research he has carried out on the Wyrley & Essington Canal has uncovered some fascinating facts about the rebuilding of the Ogley Locks on what we now refer to as the Lichfield Canal. It has been clear to our working party volunteers for some years that we were not the first to rebuild these locks. Although most of the brickwork below the bottom water level is clearly the original 1790s locally hand-made red bricks, full of stones and now rather crumbly with very soft mortar, much of the lock structure above that level has been rebuilt or refaced in harder machine-made blue engineering bricks. We long suspected from the style that this must have been done after the merger of the Wyrley & Essington Canal with the BCN by Act of Parliament in 1840 (see article in CBW20, Summer 1999). Now we have confirmation of that, thanks to Ray's research into the BW archives at Gloucester where many of the BCN Board Minutes and records are lodged. Most, if not all, of the 30 locks were rebuilt between 1843 and 1850 and gates and paddles were replaced. Ray has extracted the following details which give some idea of the extent of the works at that time:

|       |      |               |                                                   |
|-------|------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Sept  | 1843 | Lock 10       | Part of wall to be taken down and repaired        |
| Feb   | 1844 | Lock 22       | Stone quarries to be repaired                     |
| March | 1844 | Lock 27       | Parts of lock to be rebuilt                       |
| April | 1844 | Lock 26       | Lock to be substantially repaired                 |
| April | 1845 | Lock 1        | Lock to be substantially repaired                 |
| May   | 1845 | Lock 6        | Lock to be rebuilt on plan shown                  |
| Nov   | 1845 | Locks 27 & 30 | Locks to be rebuilt and culverts lined with clay  |
| March | 1846 | Locks 9 & 10  | Gate paddles and groins to be replaced            |
| Nov   | 1846 | Lock 2        | New paddles to be fitted                          |
| Oct   | 1847 | Lock 2        | New masonry and brickwork for lock                |
| Oct   | 1848 | Lock 12       | Brickwork and wing wall repairs planned           |
| July  | 1849 | Locks 3 & 4   | Wing walls to be rebuilt                          |
| July  | 1849 | Lock 5        | Lock to be taken down and rebuilt                 |
| July  | 1849 | Lock 7        | New hanging stone to be provided                  |
| April | 1850 | Locks 21 & 22 | Gates and paddles to be replaced                  |
| June  | 1850 | Lock 8        | New stone quoin to be installed                   |
| July  | 1850 | Lock 15       | Lock taken down and rebuilt with cast iron quoins |

(continued over)

## **REBUILDING THE OGLEY LOCKS (1843 - 1850) (continued)**

No doubt, trawling the records would reveal even more fascinating information, as well as work at later dates. One thing they show is that extra labour had to be drafted in from other districts of the BCN to help. For example in September and October 1848 there were 3 stone masons and 3 or 4 extra bricklayers employed on the reconstruction of Lock 12. We could do with some of that help now, especially the stone masons ! Many of the jobs carried out 150 plus years ago are still familiar to our volunteers, but the speed they must have completed them gives pause for thought.

*Phil Sharpe*

## **HONOURS**

The Golden Jubilee seems to have enjoyed success far beyond the earlier gloomy expectations. There have been festivities up and down the country badged as Jubilee events and, unlike "Millennium" this has proved to be a bonus rather than a burden. Perhaps we should have had a Jubilee Dome. The Trust has not run any Jubilee events as such but could well have given the Lichfield Canal Walk such a title. It is good that two people closely associated with the L&H have received honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Our Vice-President, David Suchet received an OBE for services to his profession, although he certainly would qualify for an honour for his services to the waterways. We have sent him our warmest congratulations. Seeing the "Suchet Culvert" at Churchbridge in water recently brought home to us yet again what David has done for the Trust.

Dr. David Fletcher, Chief Executive of British Waterways, received a well-deserved CBE. Again the Trust sent him warm congratulations. As he approaches retirement many tributes will be paid to Dave's outstanding work in confounding the cynics and transforming BW in a way few of us could have expected. Only those of us close to the tense discussions which resulted in a change in government policy to restoration and the building of two culverts will ever know just how much we owe to Dave and his team.

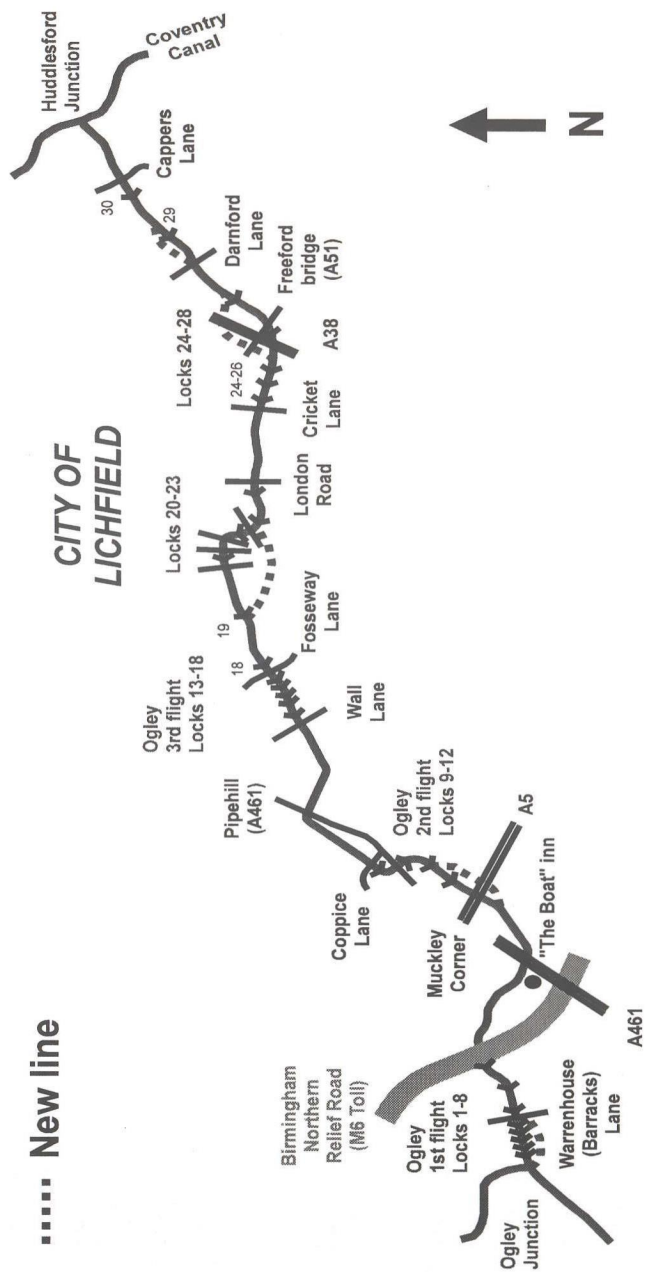
Finally, the Trust itself, received the Kenneth Goodwin Trophy from IWA at the Crick Boat Show. This is given to the society or trust which has made the most significant progress in achieving its objective. The Trophy itself is a miniature JCB in a glass case. It will be displayed for the next 12 months on the Trust stand at all major events. This is a great honour for all of us. Jubilee Year has certainly reached every level of the L&H.

*Brian Kingshott*

# THE LICHFIELD CANAL

— Original parts

..... New line



Diagrammatic plan,  
not to scale

1/1/02

BROWNHILLS

## NATURE TEAM

Mike Battisson has volunteered to co-ordinate a new Nature Team. This team will do such jobs as planting and environmental-type activities on the Lichfield Canal restoration sites. Anyone who is interested in helping, please phone Mike on 01543 300090.



Mike Battisson planting marsh plants on the environmental wetlands area at Darnford Site. (photo Jan Horton)

**MAKE A DATE AND JOIN US**

**TO BE ENTERTAINED BY**

## **The El'San Band**

**ON SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
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## **MARKETING REPORT**

Once again, Ray Bown of Streethay Wharf has generously donated a Bottom Blacking and Painted Stern for your boat. This prize is worth about £350.00. To take part in this Competition, fill in the entry form with Cut Both Ways or from any of our show stands. A ticket will cost you £5.00 but the odds are very favourable. The draw will take place on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Galton Valley bonfire and the winner will have eighteen months to collect the prize. As reported in previous C.B.W. we have several splendid prizes in our Grand Prize Draw. First prize is a week's holiday on a four berth narrow boat kindly donated by Jannel Cruisers, Burton-on-Trent. Other prizes include £100 cash, a gallon of whiskey and a year's subscription to Waterways World magazine.

### **The Lichfield Walk !!!**

What can I say; it surpassed all our wildest dreams. 500 – 600 people were expected to attend and we ended up with an estimated 2000! Thanks must go to John & Jan Horton, David & Dendra Hoskison, Jan & David Foster and WRG for their brilliant organisation. Thanks must also go to Lichfield Cruising Club, and all the land owners, Marketing volunteers and helpers too numerous to mention in this brief report. There is a souvenir video of the walk available, and a 500 pictorial C.D, both produced by Terry Fullwood of Fullwood Productions: see page 24 for purchase details.

### **The Show Season**

The week-end 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May saw members of the Marketing group attending the Ashby Trail Boat Festival at Moira. A profitable week-end despite the wind and poor weather, thanks to our sales team, May Brown, Lyn Evans, Margaret and Derek Beardsmore. 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Crick Boat Show: Team leader was Rob Davies assisted by Bob and Sue Williams. Thank you to all our members who turned up to help man the stand. On Saturday the Trust was presented with the Kenneth Goodwin Trophy by Richard Drake, National Chairman of the I W A and Deputy Chairman Liz Payne. It was accepted on behalf of the Trust by our Chairman, Brian Kingshott (see cover photo). The Trophy is awarded each year to the Restoration that has made the most significant progress during the year. Spring Bank Holiday Monday, Lichfield Bower, Beacon Park: a successful day despite the rain. We enrolled several new members, with Bric-a-brac, Lucky Dip and Cross Bow game our best money earners.

Stafford boat club have made us their charity of the year for 2002, so we were delighted when asked to take our display stand to their Boat Gathering on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Ably assisted by Kathryn and Alec Matthews we sold several videos and two contributions to the Brick Appeal. The A.W.C.C. Rally at Longwood Boat Club 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June was well supported by boaters, but alas, poorly attended

## **MARKETING REPORT (continued)**

by the general public due, I suspect, to England playing in the World Cup on Saturday, and Ireland playing on Sunday. We were well supported by our regular sales team and managed a grand total of £240.43 for our efforts. May and I visited our old friends and supporters at Tamworth Boat Club with the display stand for their open day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and spent a very pleasant afternoon, thanks to their members.

### **Aylesbury Canal Society.**

The L & H Trust has been chosen as their charity for 2002 and we shall benefit from the proceeds of their Charity Auction to be held at the canal basin, Aylesbury on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The Marketing team will be there with L&H display boards. Can any local members spare some time to help us there?

### **A social evening**

has been arranged on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2002 by Derek and Margaret Beardsmore at the Grangemoor Working Men's club, Burntwood. Entertainment by the El'San band. Supper provided by the Hot Potato man.

*Mike Brown, Chairman of Marketing Group*



The Trust has produced its own postcard. It is the first postcard to be produced from the A N Boulton Collection of photographs which have been donated to the Trust. "Cats on a balance beam" is an appealing colour photograph for both canal enthusiasts and animal lovers alike. On the reverse is our Trust logo and website address to help promote the Trust. Now on sale at 25p each.

## Donations to Brick Appeal from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> July

|               |       |                      |       |
|---------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Robin Bell    | 20.00 | D A & P M Simpson    | 40.00 |
| P Wall        | 20.00 | R Francis            | 40.00 |
| Mrs D English | 20.00 | D Bassett            | 40.00 |
| Tim Sayers    | 20.00 | J & H E Adams        | 20.00 |
| Mrs D Buxton  | 20.00 | R J Sproston         | 20.00 |
| S Lasky       | 20.00 | T A & V J Edwards    | 20.00 |
| J Carrington  | 20.00 | S J Walsh            | 20.00 |
| J W Baughan   | 20.00 | R Pinder             | 20.00 |
| D Kitching    | 20.00 | Miss B Muncey        | 20.00 |
| S R Wellings  | 20.00 | Mrs Erica Gray       | 20.00 |
| P M Jones     | 20.00 | Mrs Christine Kirby  | 20.00 |
| H Hodgkins    | 20.00 | A J Derbyshire       | 20.00 |
| D N Cooke     | 20.00 | G J Sullivan         | 20.00 |
| Miss P M Sale | 20.00 | Brian Seymour        | 20.00 |
| P H Buck      | 20.00 | John & Janet Laidlar | 20.00 |
| S & D Pearce  | 20.00 | Mike & Sue Reynolds  | 20.00 |
| D J Barnard   | 20.00 | Albert Harman        | 20.00 |
| J E Hartley   | 20.00 | Allan Gilbert        | 20.00 |
| R J Chuter    | 20.00 |                      |       |



Hatherton Canal M6 Toll culvert 155 at Churchbridge complete with the Washbrook flowing through. (photo Phil Sharpe)

## **VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

### **M6 TOLL**

Construction of the enlarged culverts for the Hatherton Canal under the M6 Toll (BNRR) has continued and as we go to press we heard that water had been let into the 'David Suchet' culvert at Churchbridge on 4<sup>th</sup> July. An inspection visit was immediately planned and we have a picture to show you on page 14. Of course, this is not yet a canal, only the Washbrook, but the extra capacity is there for the future. The other culvert near Walkmill Lane is also nearly complete.

On the Lichfield Canal crossing, further design work for the aqueduct has been done and construction of the foundations is imminent. We are increasingly confident that the supporting abutments and centre column will be installed but still need to raise the balance of at least £140,000 to fund the aqueduct trough. It will be touch and go to do this in time for installation before the motorway opens, especially if it opens early as is now being suggested.

### **RESTORATION PROJECTS**

Our physical restoration work on the Lichfield Canal has been driven for many years now by John Horton, and would not have made such significant progress without his energy and determination. But planning new projects whilst organising work parties on present projects is an onerous responsibility which becomes more difficult as our expectations increase. For visiting groups work has to be planned, materials ordered, plant hired, and accommodation arranged, often at short notice. Most of our own working parties at Lichfield are ably supervised by Peter Matthews, but need a steady supply of materials and labour. If anyone can offer practical or administrative assistance to help share the burden of this ongoing work then please talk to John about how you can help.

The other main aspect of restoration is the Civil Engineering. We need help with project definition, specifying materials and methods, drawing up plans, calculating quantities, costing jobs, and seeking and letting contracts. We can and have done all these things, but not at the same time ! We need to be able to plan ahead more and consider alternative methods rather than operating hand to mouth. It is also much easier to fund-raise if we have a clearer idea in advance of the details of each project. Ideally, therefore we would like to recruit a retired, semi-retired, or even a working Civil Engineer (or two !) to help us plan and supervise new projects in a professional manner. If you think you could help with any aspect of this, please contact Brian, me or John to discuss the opportunities.

(continued over)

## **VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)**

Another area where help would be useful is the increasingly complicated but important area of Health & Safety legislation. Although we have an excellent record on our sites and take all the practical precautions necessary in conjunction with Waterway Recovery Group, some of the paperwork needed to prove our compliance could be improved. If anyone has some experience in this field and is able to help us with risk assessments, safety plans and supervision we would be very grateful.

### **DONATIONS AND GRANTS**

A full list of donations to the Trust is included on another page, and thanks to everyone for being so generous. Notable among them are several large donations of £1,000 to the David Suchet Appeal from member Mr William B Brown, IWA Kent & East Sussex Branch, IWA Lichfield Branch, and £2,000 from Froud's Bridge Marina. Our general restoration funds have also benefited from the continuing generosity of Dr Hollingworth and many others, and grants received include £500 from Lichfield City Council and £1,000 from Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust. The latter is towards the legal expenses of transfer of the lease on Mr & Mrs Attwood's land, for which we have also been offered a grant of £5,000 by IWA's Restoration Committee. This is however, subject to reaching agreement on some outstanding details. The tax man has also made two substantial contributions courtesy of our many members and donors who have signed a Gift Aid declaration.

We reported last time on news just received of a £5,000 grant from Lichfield District Council to the David Suchet Appeal. In fact it was towards fund-raising for the Appeal rather than directly for the aqueduct. However, this is just the help we need at this time and promises to multiply the value of the grant. We have now appointed an experienced fund-raising consultant to help us achieve our target of funding the aqueduct trough in time to build it before the motorway opens.

Our application for European (ERDF Objective 2) funds for the Hatherton Canal has made further progress with the submission of the full bid document in May, following much hard work with their computerised application package. Other funding bids being progressed include a further Local Heritage Initiative project and support from Barclays Bank, both for the Tamworth Road site. Whilst it is best not to count any chickens, we remain hopeful of receiving some corn !

*Philip Sharpe*



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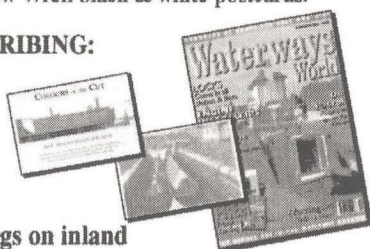
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### Amounts over £15 from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2002

|                                                                       |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| IWA, Stoke on Trent Branch<br>(IWA "Welome Aboard" recruitment award) | 25.00    |
| Dr T Hollingworth (additional fees)                                   | 316.00   |
| D J Male (with sub.)                                                  | 35.00    |
| Dr J Massy (with Draw tickets)                                        | 23.00    |
| J Lamming (with sub.)                                                 | 35.00    |
| Dr J R Massy (with sub.)                                              | 20.00    |
| R O & S P Williams (wrg Race Night)                                   | 25.00    |
| Mrs D Salomonson (with sub.)                                          | 20.00    |
| S G Taylor (with sub.)                                                | 40.00    |
| W A Parkes (with sub.)                                                | 25.00    |
| D W Tomlinson (with sub.)                                             | 20.00    |
| R Mullarkey (with sub.)                                               | 20.00    |
| J M Smith (with sub.)                                                 | 25.00    |
| R.B.O.A. (talk at AGM)                                                | 50.00    |
| K A Twyman (with Draw tickets)                                        | 23.00    |
| G G Oldham (with sub.)                                                | 30.00    |
| J N Potts (with sub.)                                                 | 25.00    |
| P R Swindale (with sub.)                                              | 30.00    |
| W Clifford (in lieu of sub. as Life Member)                           | 20.00    |
| Brian Kingshott (donated expenses)                                    | 50.20    |
| D M Bentley (in memory G W Bentley dec'd)                             | 65.00    |
| D Stanistreet (£30p.m. Apr, May, Jun.)                                | 90.00    |
| Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust grant                                   | 1,000.00 |
| Gift Aid tax claim                                                    | 2,286.07 |
| Lichfield City Council grant                                          | 500.00   |

Press Date for CBW 33 is 5<sup>th</sup> October 2002



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## **PRESS & PUBLICITY**

Press & publicity this time covers the period 5th April to 5th July 2002.

The May edition of *Canal & Riverboat* magazine devoted a page and a half to a well illustrated article by Stan Holland "On tour with David Suchet at Lichfield & Hatherton Canals culvert ceremony". This described our Canal Forum at Cannock and all the events of the day, including David's visits to the culvert at Churchbridge, Walsall wharf and BW's Bradley workshops. A panel gave a plug for *The Missing Links* video and our Brick Appeal, whilst a separate news item highlighted IWA's £20,000 contribution to the David Suchet Appeal. IWA's *Waterways* magazine for May pictured the cheque being presented by Richard Drake to David Suchet at the Canal Forum and reported on its success and progress with the Appeal in both the National Chairman's Column and the Restoration Update.

Both *Canal Boat* and *Waterways World* magazines in May carried news of progress with funding the aqueduct; "Hope for Lichfield aqueduct" and "Lichfield & Hatherton extend appeal" respectively, and *Canal Boat* also included our 2002 version of the David Suchet Appeal leaflet. *Canal & Riverboat* magazine for June reported "L&H now hopeful for an aqueduct at Brownhills". Meanwhile, an article in the *Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle* on progress with building the M6 Toll included a photo of the concrete culvert for the Washbrook at Churchbridge - "big enough to be used by narrowboats, should the Hatherton Canal be re-opened".

The Lichfield Canal Walk in April was given widespread advance publicity with diary entries in all 3 waterway magazines. Locally, there was publicity in *Look Ahead In Lichfield District*, and the *Express & Star* announced "Special walk to show canal restoration". The *Lichfield Post* had "Invitation to walk canals", with a picture of Trust members at Lock 26, and the *Lichfield Mercury* pictured members on the new towpath at Tamworth Road. Local reporting of the event itself was initially brief, being combined with reports on the City Twinning events in the *Post* and the *Mercury*. However, local magazine *The Journal* for June reported "MP joins canal walkers" with colour pictures of Michael Fabricant MP at the start of the walk and of Councillor Janet Eagland, Mayor of Lichfield with other dignitaries from the City and twin towns viewing work from the temporary bridge at Lock 26. The July edition of *Canal Boat* magazine reported "Two thousand walk the Lichfield" and also pictured Michael Fabricant MP with Trust officers at the start of the walk. *Waterways World* magazine's report was "Toeing the line!", although they seem to have lost 10 of our locks somewhere !

(continued over)

## **PRESS & PUBLICITY (continued)**

Michael Fabricant also helped to keep the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals in the news with a question in Parliament to DTLR Minister, David Jamieson. It was even mentioned in the Commons sketch column in *The Daily Telegraph*, although somewhat misreported, but the local *Express & Star* explained "MP in thank-you to minister over canal". In a rare display of cross-party unity, Michael thanked the Minister for his Department's new guidance on roads and bridges and their help with the BNRR (M6 Toll) crossings. Surprisingly, he also extended his thanks to the then Transport Secretary, Stephen Byers. It appears that Mr Byers, who had doggedly resisted all manner of public criticism over his political advisor and taking Railtrack into administration, etc., could not cope with being praised by the opposition and shortly after resigned ! So perhaps LHCRT unwittingly played a part in national politics !

Back on the ground, *Navvies* magazine for June-July 2002 had an illustrated article on WRG's activities at Lichfield on the weekend of 20/21 April. Amusingly written in the style of a "Time Team" programme and titled "The 'Grime Team' get to work at Tamworth Road", it chronicled the rediscovery of the spillweir at Lock 26. It also mentioned the Race Night and the Walk, and a letter to the editor from the Trust thanked everyone for their help with these successful events.

"Accolade for canals scheme campaigners" was the illustrated report in the *Lichfield Mercury* showing the presentation of the IWA's Kenneth Goodwin Trophy to the Trust at the Crick Boat Show. The *Express & Star* similarly reported "Trophy reward for work on canals".

Although I compile these reports and keep the Trust's press cuttings album, most of the work in feeding reports and pictures to the local press and waterway magazines is done, very effectively, by Jan Horton. News and photos of Trust activities can also be found on our Web Site, courtesy of Sue Williams.

*Phil Sharpe*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We regret reporting the deaths of four of our members.

Mr David Smallman of Burntwood, a work party helper, died 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr Tony Grantham MBE, lately of Hillmorton, who had a long career with British Waterways (finally as Amenity Services Manager) a President of Lichfield Cruising Club from its formation in 1978 to 1989, and Vice-President of Tamworth Cruising Club and Coventry Canal Society died 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Mr G W Bentley, Cannock, died 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Mr William J. King of Fradley near Lichfield, prominent among local bee-keepers, died 23<sup>rd</sup> June.



Brian Kingshott with Janet Eagland the Mayor of Lichfield, Herr Martin Richard Mayor of Limburg, Cllr Brendens Deputy Mayor of St. Foye viewing work at Lock 26 during the Lichfield Walk. (photo Jan Horton)

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## LICHFIELD PROGRESS

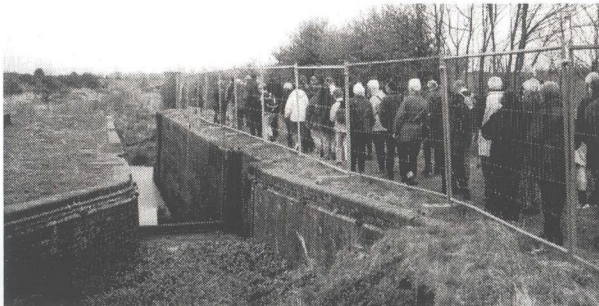
Progress on Lock 26 at Tamworth Road has continued apace this quarter with work on most week-ends and many Wednesday evenings since May. The brick-work at the head of the lock and on the top-end wingwalls has been largely completed, including attractive brick arches above the ground paddle chambers. This has all been back-filled with concrete and the paddle chamber roofs have been cast. Only completion of the brick copings, along with some pointing and repair of the chamber floors remains. The shuttering has been removed from the back of the new chamber walls and extra concrete laid to seal the joint with the old brick-work and puddle clay. The back of the concrete was also given a coat of bitumen to reduce any seepage. Inside the chamber, the scaffolding has been dismantled giving access to the lower part of the walls for repointing, and the remaining fill around the land drain pipe is being removed.

Our own regular volunteers were assisted by WRG in April and a visit from the Newbury Working Party Group in June. The weekend of the Walk, despite a constant stream of visitors, saw some careful 'archaeological' excavation leading to the rediscovery of part of the bywash channel above the shed, enabling us to plan its rebuilding. The Newbury week-end was most notable for some nifty footwork on the barrow runs moving the ready-mix concrete to backfill the walls. As usual, anyone 'at a loose end' got press-ganged into brick cleaning, which is a great incentive to develop some other skills !

Our other two sites at Darnford and Fosseway, although not currently active, have not been neglected although some more help with regular strimming would be appreciated.

Peter Matthews, our 'main man' and 'Mr Motivator' at Tamworth Road has recently had an operation which will limit his physical involvement for a few months. But he will still be able to organise and supervise to ensure that the work continues and the standards are upheld. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

*Phil Sharpe*



Just some of the many who went on the Lichfield Walk passing Lock 18 at Fosseway Lane.  
(photo Jan Horton)



Lock 26 Tamworth Road. Peter Matthews building brick arch above the ground paddle chamber. (photo Phil Sharpe)

## **HATHERTON PROGRESS**

Hatherton Canal working parties, under Denis Cooper, have recently installed towpath way-mark posts at Roman Way and Cats Bridge, with 2 others due to go in shortly. The usual Spring growth on the towpath has been even more rapid in places this year with the extra light penetration from reducing the overgrown hedgerow but, unlike last year when Foot & Mouth prevented access, we have been able to keep on top of it. The linear dredgings, however, are un-mowable and leave a narrower path than before. We still hope for some remedial action from BW. Meanwhile we have completed clearing up after the hedging contractors, trimmed overhanging growth, cleared fallen trees and levelled a section of towpath. All this work does at least appear to be appreciated and used by local people, and even discovered by visitors from abroad. It is never too late to join in, and if you are under 65 you might even help reduce the average age of our volunteers ! Give Denis a ring for details.

*Phil Sharpe*

## L & H SALES

We have a variety of products available to promote the Trust. Once or twice a year we send out a Sales Form with Cut Both Ways, but these items are available by mail order all year round. Phone Mike Brown, 01543 302908, or order direct from our website, [www.lhcrt.org.uk](http://www.lhcrt.org.uk).

Post and packing (UK only) is included in these prices, or you can save the postage cost by visiting the L&H stand at the various shows.

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| Sweatshirt - embroidered logo: front only                                     | £17.50 |
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
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| (many more LHP titles available on request, or visit our stand at the shows) |        |
| "Walk The Line of The Lichfield Canal": video by Fullwood Productions        | £ 9.95 |
| "A Pictorial Journey": L & H photo CD by Fullwood Productions                | £ 4.95 |
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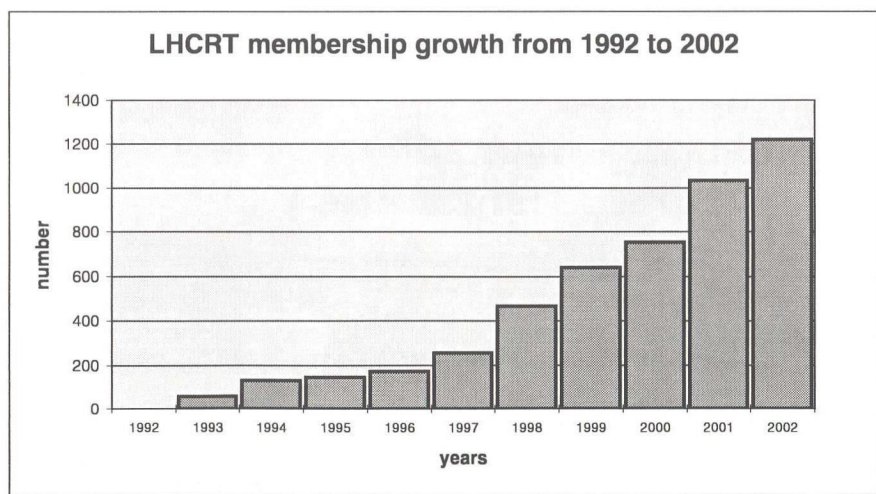
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## 10 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

A large and active membership is vital to the progress of our restoration projects and the Trust has been particularly successful in steadily recruiting new members at the many events attended by our Marketing team and lately in connection with the high profile David Suchet Appeal. Membership income is the bedrock of the Trust, paying for the magazine and our administration overheads and contributing significantly to the direct costs of physical restoration work. Having a large membership also demonstrates the extent of public support and influences donors and funding agencies to support us with grants. So-called "armchair" members are just as important to us as those who are able to help with labour or campaigning. However, the rise in membership has not been matched by a rise in the number of active officers and we would welcome a greater involvement from anyone with time or talents to offer our committee or the land, finance or engineering sub-groups so that we can further increase the pace of our restoration.

Meanwhile, it is encouraging to look back on what we have achieved with recruitment. The graph shows how numbers have steadily grown. Starting from nothing in 1992 when the separate 'Friends of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals' was formed, and really taking off from 1996 when membership became part of the Trust itself and our Marketing Group was formed. The total membership is now well over 1,200 and still growing, but we would like many more yet to help us achieve our aims faster. As usual, we are listing the names of all our new members for this quarter in these pages.



## **10 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP GROWTH (continued)**

It is instructive to compare our membership numbers with other waterway groups. IWA's Waterway Societies Guide (October 2001 edition) gives totals for 67 waterway societies, trusts and associations out of which we were 10th in size, although the numbers are somewhat out of date and are constantly changing. Way ahead of everyone else was the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust with 6,000 members, the next nearest being less than half that. Of the 9 groups ahead of us, 6 are in the wealthier areas of Southern England. However, we were 4th in the Midlands and North and not far behind the other 3, the largest being the Huddersfield Canal Society, which has also now achieved its aim. More recent figures, and our continuing strong growth, encourage us to think that we could become the largest restoration group in the Midlands and North with a bit more effort. Your help in persuading friends and relatives to join us this year could bring this target within reach. For membership details or leaflets contact our Membership Secretary, Finance Director or Marketing Group, or visit our website (see page 30).

*Phil Sharpe*

### **LHCRT Membership Rates**

#### **Annual Rates:**

Adult £10; Family £15;

Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £5;

Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Corporate £200.

Life Membership: £200.

To subscribe, or for information on Bankers Order and Gift Aid, please contact the Membership Secretary, or use the website.

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## New Members July 2002

|                         |                     |                   |            |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Mr W. A. Stephens       | Horsham, W Sussex   | Ms M. James       | Lichfield  |
| Mr A. Hopkins           | Thornborough, Bucks | Mrs S. Stevenson  | Lichfield  |
| Mr M. Jones             | Moseley, Birmingham | Mrs M. Lister     | Lichfield  |
| Mr W. M. Franklin       | Castle Donington    | Mr J. B. Roberts  | Streetly   |
| Mr & Mrs B. Wilkins     | Sutton Coldfield    | Mr R. Grafham     | Lichfield  |
| Mr M. W. Rayner         | Newbold on Avon     | Mr R. C. Gumbrell | Cambridge  |
| Mr R. Fountain          | Leighton Buzzard    | Mr & Mrs D. Male  | Lichfield  |
| Mr & Mrs A. Tooth       | Elford, Staffs      | Mr W. A. O'Leary  | Lichfield  |
| Dr D.G. Hawkes          | Tilehurst, Reading  | Mr M. Day         | Tixall     |
| Mr D. Dumbleton         | Stoke on Trent      | Mrs H. Day        | Tixall     |
| Stratford Canal Society | Stratford on Avon   | Mrs A. Swindale   | Brownhills |
| Mr G. Hayward           | Wolverhampton       | Mr P. Swindale    | Brownhills |
| Mrs A. Schwarzenbach    | Lichfield           | Mr C. K. Collins  | Lichfield  |
| Mrs V. A. Raffle        | Barnton, Northwich  | Dr R. Henshaw     | Lichfield  |
| Mr & Mrs Ranshaw        | Rugby               | Mr D. Jackson     | Lichfield  |
| Ms G. Nixon             | Deal, Kent          | Mr N. P. Egginton | Lichfield  |
| Mrs L. Hurst            | Kingswinford        | Mr F. Daysh       | Lichfield  |
| Mrs J. Pearce           | Amington, Tamworth  | Mrs D. Daysh      | Lichfield  |
| Mr & Mrs. J. Wallace    | Burghill, Hereford  | Mr R. J. Chuter   | Lichfield  |
| IWA Branch              | Kent & East Sussex  | Dr C. Lock        | Lichfield  |
| Mr D. Brabner           | Taunton             | Mr Cureton        | Lichfield  |
| Mrs P. Brabner          | Taunton             | Mrs Cureton       | Lichfield  |
| Mr A. L. Jones          | Moore, Warrington   | Mrs Hawes         | Lichfield  |
| Mr & Mrs C. D. Forster  | Holbrook, Derbys    | Mr W. K. Hawes    | Lichfield  |
| Mr P. J. Lee            | Barton-on-Humber    | Ms H. Jordan      | Freeford   |
| Mrs A. J. Lee           | Barton-on-Humber    | Mr T. A. Brown    | Cannock    |
| Mr C. P. Dick           | Saint Ebbes, Oxon   | Mr D. J. Eldon    | Cannock    |
| Mrs G. Hodges           | Melton Mowbray      | Mr H. R. Haywood  | Cannock    |
| Mr E. J. Pincher        | Birmingham          | Mr M. C. Crossman | Streetly   |
| Mrs M. J. Maynard       | Dorking, Surrey     | Mr D. A. Parkes   | Shenstone  |
| Mr R. Teale             | Hammerwich, Staffs  | Mr & Mrs Brearley | Lichfield  |
| Mr K. V. Wasdell        | Hammerwich, Staffs  | Mr R. Talbot      | Streetly   |
| Mr P. Maddison          | Sutton Coldfield    | Mrs Talbot        | Streetly   |
| Mr J. R. Smith          | Hednesford          | Mr I. West        | Leicester  |
| Mr & Mrs B. Martin      | Stoke on Trent      |                   |            |

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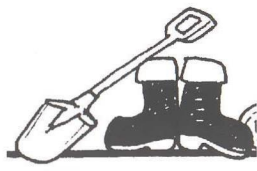
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## **WORKING PARTIES** **AUGUST - DECEMBER 2002**

### **LICHFIELD CANAL**

Regular Lichfield work parties are held on the first Sunday of each month from 10 am. working on rebuilding Lock 26 at Tamworth Road. Some additional Saturdays or Sundays are also worked and some Wednesday evenings in August (from about 5.30 pm), as well as occasional weekend visits from WRG groups. Contact Peter Matthews on **01543-318933** (note changed number) or John Horton on 01543-262466 for further details.

For Tamworth Road Lock 26 (SK 130 083) take the A51 south out of Lichfield, the site is on the right past Cricket Lane. Park by Lock 25 and walk past The Cottage to the entrance track for Lock 26, but please note that the access is across private land and should not be used except on organised work parties.

**Wednesday evenings:** 7, 14, 21 August.

#### **Weekend work parties:**

Sat/Sun 3/4 August, Sat 17 August, Sun 25 August;  
Sun 1 September, Sat 7 September, Sat 21 September, Sat/Sun 28/29 Sept;  
Sun 6 October, Sat/Sun 19/20 October, Sat 26 October;  
Sun 3 November, Sat 16 November, Sat 30 November;  
Sun 1 December, Sat 7 December, Sat/Sun 21/22 December.

**WRG visits:** Sat/Sun 7/8 September - Kent & East Sussex CRG  
Sat 26 Oct to Sat 2 Nov - WRG Canal Camp

### **HATHERTON CANAL**

Regular Hatherton Canal work parties are held on the third Sunday of each month from 10 am. working mainly on towpath and hedgerow maintenance with some tree clearance. Contact Denis Cooper on 01543-374370 (work) for the meeting place.

**Monthly work parties:** Sundays: 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December.

**ALL SITES:** Bring old clothes, stout footwear, work gloves, and refreshment. Hard hats and basic working tools can be provided as necessary.

## **LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.**

Registered Office: 3 Norfolk Court, Norfolk Road, Rickmansworth WD3 1LT  
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).

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 Cannock Extension Canal.

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| Vice-Chairman        | Phil Sharpe                                      | ☎01889 583330           |
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| Membership Secretary | Trevor Morris                                    | ☎0121 354 7952          |
|                      | 163 Halton Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 6NZ        |                         |
| Hatherton Projects   | Denis Cooper                                     | ☎(work) 01543 374370    |
|                      | Gorsey Lane Farm, Pelsall WS3 5AJ                |                         |
| Lichfield Projects   | John Horton                                      | ☎/Fax 01543 262466      |
|                      | 32 London Road, Lichfield WS14 9EJ               |                         |
| Magazine Editor      | Stephen Pitt                                     | ① (mobile) 07770 586978 |
|                      | 11 Silkmore Lane, Stafford ST17 4JN              |                         |
| Strategic Policy     | Rob Davies                                       | ☎/ Fax 01543 432079     |

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| Marketing & Sales   | Michael Brown                                    | ☎01543 302908                                                  |
| Lichfield Publicity | Janette Horton                                   | ☎01543 262466                                                  |
| Lichfield Foreman   | Peter Matthews                                   | ☎01543 318933                                                  |
| Web Master          | Sue Williams                                     | e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@lhcr.org.uk">info@lhcr.org.uk</a> |

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