

£1.00 (Free to Members) Issue No 33 AUTUMN 2002

The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton
Canals Restoration Trust



Re profiled channel at Darnford Lane, Lichfield (Photo Phil Sharpe)

Don't forget
Social evening with Music & Supper
Saturday 16th November at Burntwood
See page 19 for detail

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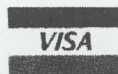
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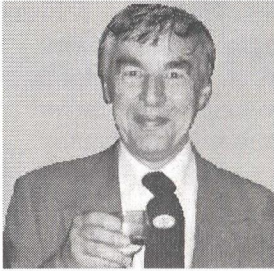
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Although it has been extensively reported elsewhere, it would not be appropriate to start this column without paying tribute to Nick Grazebrook. His death, while boating on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, came as a tremendous shock to all of us who had worked with him for so many years. He was in at the very start of the Trust, attending the first meeting, on 12th February 1988, of what was then called the IWA West Midlands Restoration Group - B.C.N. Initiative. He was appointed Treas-

urer at the 5th meeting in July. He continued as Treasurer until 1998 when he became Company Secretary. He once confided that he regarded the work of the Trust as the most valuable waterways-related project which he had ever joined. Our deepest sympathies go to Jane and the family. The Memorial Service at Wolverley was packed to capacity - a very fitting tribute to a waterways enthusiast.

Looking through the Minutes of the early years was a sobering exercise. Nostalgia and reminiscence can be a risky experience. The first realisation is just how long ago 1988 really is. Fourteen calendar years may not seem very much but the changes in society compressed into that period are substantial. Of the 8 people present at the first meeting, 4 are now dead, as is Ken Goodwin who came to meeting no. 2. The Chairman was Ron Pritchard, who was then IWA Region Chairman. Of course, others have come and gone but the purpose has stayed constant. From those tentative beginnings have come the Trust of today with a membership of 1300 and a great many achievements to show. However, nostalgia is not nearly enough and it is the future which matters. It is almost a cliché but surely true, to say that all our old colleagues would want us to press on undaunted.

The summer months have been somewhat quiet ones for the Trust but the Autumn has propelled us back into more dynamic action. The M6 Toll is still in the forefront of our attention. As I write this, in early October, I hear that building of the abutments of the aqueduct is about to start. Once again, we will have something to show for all those hours of negotiating and fund-raising. Unfortunately, there is only limited cause for rejoicing. We still must make every effort to finance and install the trough while the motorway is still under construction. The Suchet Appeal is still yielding a steady income but not yet enough to commit ourselves to placing a trough fabrication order. We are exploring every avenue to find the money we need but time is becoming very limited. The next three months will be critical and if anyone has delayed making a contribution, no matter how small, this is the time to make the move.

(continued over)

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

Elsewhere, I must pay tribute to our Marketing Group. The list of functions, shows, exhibitions and festivals they attend is truly impressive. This places heavy time burdens on a small number of people and can involve extensive traveling, not to mention many hours of just standing and smiling. We are grateful to Mike Brown and his team for all they do and, of course, for the considerable sums of money they raise. Please support them and buy their merchandise.

With these thoughts in mind I am appealing again to anyone who feels they can help, in however small a way, to make themselves known to us. Inevitably, our old and faithful band of helpers can become tired, especially as the demands on them increase. We understand that many people join the Trust as an expression of support, knowing that they will not be able to do much more. We respect this and greatly value the income from their subscriptions which are the mainstay of our finances. Even so, please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any skills, or just time, you can offer.

Visiting the IWA National Festival at Huddersfield provided the usual opportunities for networking and catching up with what other restoration organisations are doing. Our own stand looked good, and thanks go to Phil Sharpe and all who ensured that our message was put before the public to good effect. There are so many good and worthwhile restoration schemes out there and it made me realise just how hard we all have to work to be noticed and to make progress. In a sense we are all competing for the same support and the same funding but this is a creative tension which benefits us all. There is so much goodwill towards the L&H and such confidence that we will succeed.

This support is heartening but we must counter the feeling that we are home and dry (if that is a good canal expression). We have achieved much but there is a very long way to go. We must have confidence in the outcome but no hint of complacency.

Brian Kingshott



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Nick Grazebrook, Company Secretary
(Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust)

The death of Nick, aged 64, in a boating accident in August has come as a great shock to the Trust. The press in the Midlands and the waterways magazines have all paid their well-deserved tributes. He died in a boating accident on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal en route to the BCN which meant so much to him.

Nick was involved in the waterways movement from the mid 1960s. He was a keen and intrepid boater and was always ready to join committees and activities. His legal skills and knowledge were invaluable, especially in the days when the voluntary movement was often in conflict with authorities of all kinds. He served on the committee of the old Birmingham Branch of IWA for nearly 20 years and was always keen to take the fight to the enemy lines. In recent years he has been Chairman of the West Midlands Region of IWA and a member of its national Council.

It was almost inevitable that he would be a founder member of what became the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust. He was a strong advocate of bringing life back to the northern BCN and saw the restoration of our two canals as vital to this. He told me at an early stage that he thought that the L&H was the most important and worthwhile waterways project he had ever joined. It was his advice which caused the Trust to be set up as a charity and a limited company from the outset thereby saving a great deal of time and cost. He produced the constitution and arranged for IWA to fund the start-up costs of the Trust - a very considerable sum for an infant organisation. He was Treasurer of the Trust for the first decade and also brought his legal skills to good use.

Later he became Company Secretary and continued to support the Trust, speaking at the Cannock Forum earlier this year. We will greatly miss his advice and support.

All of us who have worked with Nick for so many years grieve at his passing so very early in his retirement. Our deepest sympathies go to Jane and all the family.

Brian Kingshott

Donations to Brick Appeal from 6th July to 5th October

Mrs Hilary V Smith / Peter Bennion (x3)	B Henry
P Duerden	D J Mills
Stuart & Wendy Gaskin	David J Johnson
Jeffrey Hartung, California, USA	Ken Bonham
A Bagshaw	Mrs E E Brown
G W Pilgrim	Mrs D Brittain
Mrs G A Seward	Mr & Mrs D Buttress
John Lynes	Mike Allen
Beryl Smith	Nick Wolfe
Miss Dorothy Robbie	J W Chambers
R Millard	R J Broomhall
B C Hales (x2)	

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The views expressed in Cut Both Ways do not necessarily represent those of the Trust or the Editor. They are however published as being of interest to our readership.

MARKETING REPORT

By the time this report gets in to print, we shall be at the end of the Show Season, and the Marketing team will be having a well earned rest. We will have visited twenty one venues, recruited one hundred and three new members and raised over eight thousand pounds.

IWA National Waterways Festival Huddersfield

We had a very successful four days at the National. Thanks to Phil Sharpe and his team: Eric Wood, Malcolm Lilley and Geoff Hales, also thanks to Pat Barton for transporting the tent and equipment to site. Although we had a much lower profile than previous years, we received two substantial donations of £500 each from WRG North West and WRG Boat Club. We have also been given a very generous five year sponsorship deal by Mr Malcolm Burge of South Midlands Canal Transport. More details on this elsewhere in CBW.

Wychnor Boat Gathering

Once again thanks to all those who helped to make this a good week end. May Brown, Derek & Margaret Beardsmore, Trish & Ian Humphries, Bob & Sue Williams, Lynn Evans, Terry Brown & Jean Hadley. The weather was kind most of the time and we raised a grand total of £705.91.

Walsall Canal Festival

One day event attended by Bob & Sue Williams, Mike & May Brown. £136.22 raised.

Aylesbury Canal Society Auction

As L&HCRT were chosen as their Charity of the Year, May and I were invited to attend the charity auction week end at Aylesbury and take the L & H display stand. On the Saturday afternoon we were assisted by Philip Dumelow, one of our local members, although we were not as busy as we expected.

The evening Social and Dinner, with a very large sherry trifle decorated with the L&H logo was excellent. We finished off the evening listening to a very good jazz group. Sunday morning was much busier, enrolling one new family membership and selling over £100 worth of goods. The auction began promptly at twelve o'clock, with many good bargains being snapped up. Congratulations to John Pattle, the auctioneer, (normal day job marine engineer) for making people part with their money. His son Tom raised another £100 with a sponsored bath tub paddle across the basin, closely followed by L&H member David Daines in a canoe which people at the auction paid for him to take away. The Trust will attend a social evening at Aylesbury in November to receive a cheque.

MARKETING REPORT(continued)

Last Events of the season

Grand Prize Draw to take place at BCNS Bonfire Rally at Galton Valley Centre on 2nd November 2002.

Bottom Blacking Draw to take place at the bonfire at Bromley Hayes Marina where, it is also rumoured, we shall be presented with a cheque for £1500 by Ian Burnage from the proceeds of his sponsored B.C.N. Challenge.

Social Evening

Please do not forget the Social Evening at the Grangemoor Working Mens Club, Cannock Road, Burntwood. We shall be entertained by **The El'San Band** on Saturday 16th November, 8.00pm. Tickets £8.00 each including Supper.

Michael Brown

LOOK OUT FOR NEW L&H PRODUCTS FOR CHRISTMAS

L&H Calendar for 2003 showing David Suchet and scenes from L & H.
"A Pictorial Journey" of the L. & H. Canals on computer compact disc.
"Walk the Line of the Lichfield Canal" video of the walk last April.

Use the order form insert for these and other favourite items in this
Cut Both Ways No 33.

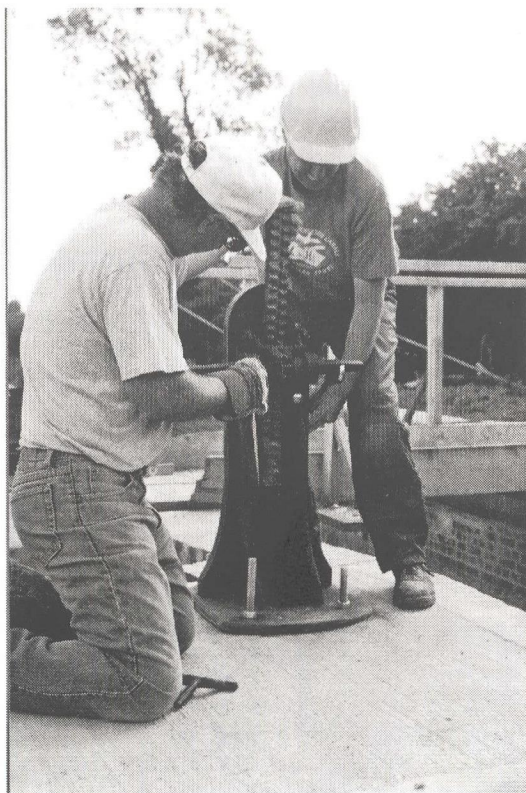


Sponsored bath tub Paddle in Aylesbury Basin (Photo Mick Brown)



LICHFIELD CANAL **WORKING PARTY NEWS**

Work has continued on various Saturdays and Sundays and also on some Wednesday evenings through the summer, aided by a weekend visit from Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group. Scrub bashing and strimming has been carried out to clear the way at Darnford Lane and along the towpath down from Fosseway Lane. On Lock 26 at Tamworth Road the remaining brickwork at the top end has been completed and repair of the ground paddle chamber floors is underway.



(Photo Phil Sharpe)

Bolts have been cast into the paddle chamber roofs and a trial fitting of the paddle gear was successful, despite no-one having a windlass handy ! As usual, many bricks have been cleaned and further clearance has been done on the bywash. The substantial job of cutting out the old brickwork for a lock safety ladder, two bricks deep this time, has employed a variety of Kango type hammers, and defeated several of them ! The bricklayers are now repairing the damage. Clearance of the bottom of the chamber around the land drain pipe down to the invert has been completed. This job, started by Newbury WPG in April, kept a large and very hard working group from KESCRG busy in September, and this time we managed to recover most of the good gravel to a dump at the lock tail suitably placed for future use to form the towpath.

The uncovered brickwork of the lower part of the lock walls was not quite as bad as expected but will need various sections patching or pointing.

(continued over)

LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (continued)

At Darnford Lane KESCRG were also busy dumpering spoil from the new channel section to the far end of the site. The excavation was carried out for us very skilfully by a machine and driver loaned by Chasetown Civil Engineering for the weekend, a most valuable contribution arranged for us by Peter Magee. The section from Darnford Lane to the bend, previously only roughly excavated, was deepened and re-profiled and the spoil largely stockpiled for future use on raising the banks at the eastern end of the site. Meanwhile, another group from KESCRG dug some trial holes behind Canal Cottage below Cricket Lane to establish the boundaries, finding a near-perfect section of sloping puddle clay liner on the off-side bank, which was recorded and then covered up again.

Unfortunately, the WRG Canal Camp planned for October had to be canceled due to delays in settling the land deal for the site. The main work was to have been excavation of the towpath wall between Locks 25 and 26, and although some similar work could have been done below Lock 26 it was thought by our engineer that there was not the full range of accompanying unskilled jobs to fully occupy the volunteers. We understand that WRG have been able to transfer the Camp to another project but are disappointed to be missing out on the high standard of hospitality they enjoy at Lichfield. It is not yet possible to predict when or how we will be able to proceed with this project, but meanwhile, there is still plenty to do on the existing sites.

Lichfield Canal work parties are held on the first Sunday of each month from 10 am. mainly working at Lock 26 at Tamworth Road. (Park by Lock 25 and walk past The Cottage to the entrance to Lock 26). Some additional Saturdays will also be worked but please note the revised schedule of dates.

Contact Peter Matthews on 01543-318933 or John Horton on 01543-262466 for confirmation.

Weekend work parties: Sunday 3 and Saturday 16 November; Sunday 1, Saturday 14 and Saturday 28 December; Sunday 5 and Saturday 18 January; Sunday 2 and Saturday 15 February; Sunday 2 and Saturday 15 March.

Phil Sharpe

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

DIRECTORS

We pay tribute elsewhere to the sad loss of our former Director Nick Grazebrook. However, on a happier note, we are pleased to report that another of our former Directors, Mike Smith has agreed to return to the Trust's Council, and was co-opted at our meeting in August for the period up to our next AGM. Mike has for some time been our Landowner Liaison Officer and has recently also been much engaged in researching and drafting a forward strategy for the Trust. We also welcome Sue Williams who was co-opted to the Board in October and will be acting as Minutes Secretary in addition to her existing role as webmaster.

MEMBERSHIP

It seems that hardly was the ink dry on the article in our last issue about membership growth than the total membership figure has again to be revised. Topping 1,200 in June, thanks to some excellent recruitment efforts over the summer shows season it has now risen to 1,300 and no doubt by the time you read this it will be out of date again ! Spare a thought for our hard working Membership Secretary and renew your subscription without waiting for a reminder. Better still, complete a bankers order and then you can't forget.



John Foley (right) presenting cheque from wrg North West to Brian Kingshott and Mike Brown at Huddersfield (Photo Phil Sharpe)

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

The David Suchet Appeal continues to attract a high level of donations with many generous personal contributions including those from Paul Waddington and Dr. Whitfield (full list elsewhere). Amongst the grants received from larger bodies are £5,000 from the Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust and £1,000 from the Fishmongers' Company. We are already well supported by Waterway Recovery Group with voluntary labour, so it was doubly pleasing to be presented at Huddersfield with two cheques for £500, firstly from WRG Boat Club and then from WRG North West. We were quite taken aback at first but had sufficiently recovered our composure to photograph the second presentation. Many thanks to Sadie Dean and to John Foley, and to all their members who raised the funds. The Waterways Trust have also granted us £200 towards an artist's impression of a restored section of canal.

SPONSORSHIP

As well as cash grants and donations, the Trust receives support through sponsorships of various kinds. The recent loan of an excavator and driver for the weekend by Chasetown Civil Engineering was worth a considerable sum and enabled us to do work that we could not otherwise afford. Other examples are the donation of a boating holiday for our Grand Prize Draw by Jannel Cruisers and sponsorship of our Bottom Blacking Competition (for boats !) by Ray Bown of Streethay Wharf, both due to be drawn on 2nd November. Ian Burnage of Streethay Wharf has also personally arranged sponsorship from the BCN Challenge in June, the amount also to be revealed in November.

A most generous sponsorship deal offered to us by Malcolm Burge of Alvecote Marina is the income from boats we can find to occupy two full length moorings for up to 5 years, plus a percentage of the fees from any additional moorers we introduce for the next 2 years. This could be worth many thousands of pounds to the Trust, and anyone seeking a mooring in this area should contact us as soon as possible. Further details are given elsewhere.

CANAL FOR SALE !

Another marina of importance to us is Anglesey Bridge Marina at Ogley Junction, Brownhills which includes the first few yards of the Lichfield Canal. It has been operated for many years by the Day family, latterly mostly for sales of cruisers over the Internet, and surfers may have noticed that the marina itself is now for sale. The Trust is not in the business of operating marinas and could not in any case afford the price, but we would obviously like it to go to owners who will be sympathetic to reopening the canal.

(continued over)

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

TOURISM CONFERENCE

Marinas help sustain tourism on the canals which was the subject of a Canal-Based Tourism Conference that the Chairman and I attended in September at Staffordshire University. Sponsored by British Waterways, it opened with a presentation by BW's new Chief Executive elect, Robin Evans who spoke with great enthusiasm for the waterways and created a very good impression. Most of the talks were very positive in outlook, including those on the Rochdale Canal, the Falkirk Wheel and the Cotswold Canals. Several other restoration groups were represented but only the Bedford - Milton Keynes Trust, Lancaster Northern Reaches Group and ourselves put on displays. Clearly waterways attract tourism, even when they are under restoration, and the prospect of them becoming a major tourism magnet should encourage wider support from local government and the funding agencies. It must be our aim to get into the next round of restorations, BW's 'tranche 3', and the contacts made at events like this can only help.

Phil Sharpe



Top of completed culvert 144 under M6 Toll near Walkmill Lane, Cannock
(Photo Phil Sharpe)

Donations to the David Suchet appeal
Amounts over £20 from 6th July to 5th October

Paul R Waddington (additional)	B Henry
A V H Gulvin	D Maxwell-Lyte
R H Hayward (additional)	Norman Sutcliffe
Mrs Frances M Caunter	P Bower
B C Smith (additional)	L H Phillips
J A Carr (additional)	C J B Walker
John P Lucas (additional)	E M Loy
M J Beare (additional)	L R Calkin
L R Mann (additional)	P A Forshaw
David Dixon (additional)	Ms P L Thomas
Phillip George Hunt	A D May
S J Bell (additional)	Paul Spray
A C Mouat (additional)	G W Oxley
C J Docwra (additional)	J W Robinson
R G W Braunstrom	I D Bateson
D F Shotbolt (additional)	Paul E Chaplin
Miss J A Boraston	Nigel M Waring
Martin W Main (additional)	Allan L Lewis
R T White (additional)	G C Hilbert
Anthony Michael Lucas	R A Sargeant
W H Peters (additional)	P F Butler
R W Lloyd-Hart (additional)	S Taylor
M J Rolfe (additional)	H J Terry
P J Gardner (additional)	K R Hadden
Brian K J Marlow (additional)	E J Griffith
Dr J R Massy (additional)	Robert J Paget
R A Draper (additional)	Miss Jane Titley
Miss H J Gardner (additional)	Mrs C S Harrington
D J Barnard (additional)	Patrick J Howard
Dr G T Whitfield (additional)	Miss B I Muncey
Tristram England (additional)	Arthur R W Large
wrg North West (via John Foley)	P D Wall (additional)
wrg Boat Club (via Sadie Dean)	D J Read (additional)
M H Smith (additional)	Dr J R Perry (additional)
Richard L Harris (additional)	S M Merrett (additional)
Miss M E Wilton (additional)	E A Roberts (additional)
John Williams (additional)	Harry Noyes (additional)

Donations to the David Suchet appeal
Amounts over £20 from 6th July to 5th October (continued)

Gerald Glover (additional)	G E Garland (additional)
Mr & Mrs S W Clarke (additional)	NWF Show Huddersfield, public cash
IWA West Midlands Region (additional)	Mr/Mrs M Hawkins, PMD Haulage Ltd
Rev A J G Cooper (additional)	Inland Waterways Ex'n, NIA, B'ham
Michael & Margaret Shaw (additional)	

DAVID SUCHET APPEAL

The long list of donors shows the continued success of this Appeal towards its "Target for 2002" of £250,000 to "bridge the gap" with the Lichfield Canal aqueduct. The Appeal fund is projected to contribute £45,000 so far and with other grants already received and on offer, we can identify some £80,000. Our thanks go to everyone for their generosity in making this possible.

Every effort is being put into reaching the target in the Spring of 2003 when we need to place an order to have the steel canal trough manufactured, ready for installation later in the year before the new motorway is open to traffic.

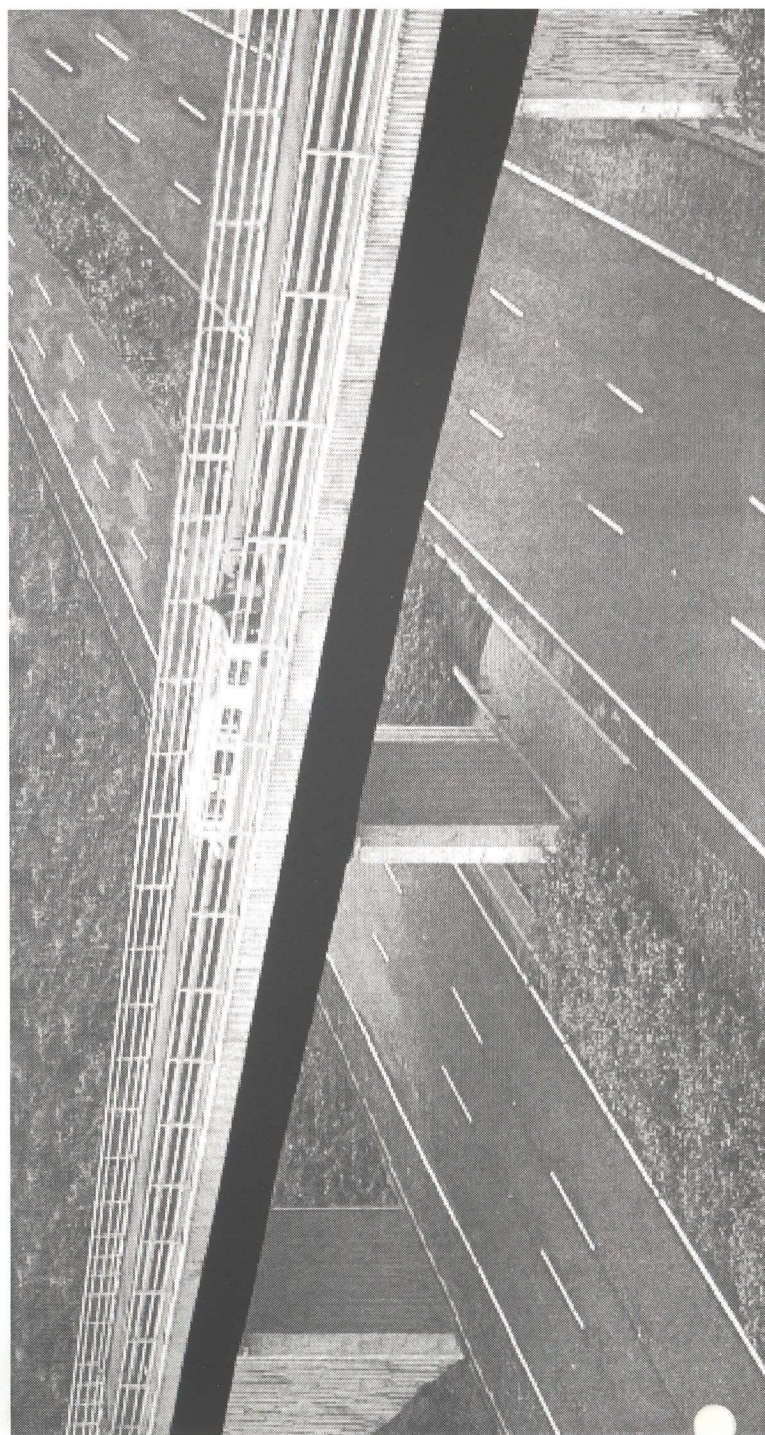
Bob Williams

LOOKING FORWARD

From the next issue of "Cut Both Ways" we are planning to introduce some changes to its appearance. In keeping with other similar journals, better quality paper should improve legibility and reproduction of photographs. We would also welcome suitable articles contributed by members, especially with photographs which can be scanned-in, or submitted as '.TIF' computer images at 300dpi or above.

As the value of money changes, reporting of donations is being changed to show sums over £20, but we remain grateful for all amounts received.

Bob Williams



Computer generated artistic impression of possible appearance of the completed Lichfield Canal aqueduct over the M6 Toll between Muckley Corner and Brownhills

Donations to the Trust.
Amounts over £15 from 6th July to 5th October

Roger & Maddie Tite (with sub.)	20.00
M Battisson (Sharkey copy report)	20.00
J I R Horton	18.00
River Canal Rescue (commission)	16.00
R Patient (with sub.)	25.00
G H Thompson (with sub.)	50.00
Bob Houghton	25.00
P R Newman (with sub.)	35.00
Townswomen's Guild, Lichfield	25.00
H J Y Pringle (with sub.)	105.00
N Blears (with sub.)	20.00
D I Bufton (after sub.)	20.00
IWA Lichfield Br; donated award	16.00
John Clarke	20.00
Three Spires Cross-stitch Club (talk)	30.00
Dr T Hollingworth (various fees)	478.50
David Stanistreet (£30pm x 3)	90.00
Phil Sharpe (returned expenses)	81.51
Brian Kingshott (returned expenses)	149.05
Aggregated sums up to £15 with subs.	502.00

GRANTS AWARDED

Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust	£5000.00
Fishmongers' Company	£1000.00
The Waterways Trust	£200.00

WHATEVER THE OCCASION

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Available for Private Charter for 1, 2 or 3 hour cruises along the Shropshire Union Canal, starting at Anglo-Welsh base at Norbury Junction

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Or mobile: 07947 337492

ALVECOTE MARINA

Alvecote Marina is situated on the Coventry Canal just east of Tamworth, on the 7 mile pound between Glascote Locks and Atherstone Locks. With its coal mining



Moorings at Alvecote Marina
(Photo Phil Sharpe)

past rapidly greening over and becoming heritage, the Coventry Canal is increasingly popular for cruising and for mooring at the heart of the national canal system. Alvecote Marina is a new marina, custom designed for modern narrow boats and with all necessary facilities to hand including pump-out and diesel.

Mooring is on fixed pontoons provided with electricity and water supply and safely located within secure fencing. Many of the existing boats are residential, providing added security. A new clubhouse and pub/restaurant is under construction. Located on Robey's Lane, 2 miles north of Junction 10 where M42 meets A5, it enjoys a countryside setting between a golf course, a nature reserve and historic priory ruins, but with the shopping and leisure facilities of Tamworth only

minutes away.

Visit narrowboat.co.uk.

Now, thanks to the generosity of its owner Malcolm Burge, you can moor your boat here and enjoy all the advantages of Alvecote Marina at a competitive price whilst supporting the restoration of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals. Two fully serviced 70 foot moorings are separately available under standard BMF conditions for the best price offered to the Trust. Normal prices for such facilities are up to £2 per foot per month but we are open to offers. Obviously, the longer the boat and the longer the stay the better for the Trust, but if you have a shorter boat and would like to move into this excellent marina then the Trust can also benefit from your introduction.

For more information contact the Trust's finance director, Bob Williams or Vice-Chairman Phil Sharpe.

Phil Sharpe

MAKE A DATE AND JOIN US

TO BE ENTERTAINED BY

The El'San Band

ON SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER
GRANGEMOOR WORKING MENS CLUB
CANNOCK ROAD, BURNTWOOD
7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. start

TICKETS £8.00 EACH

INCLUDING FILLED BAKED POTATO SUPPER

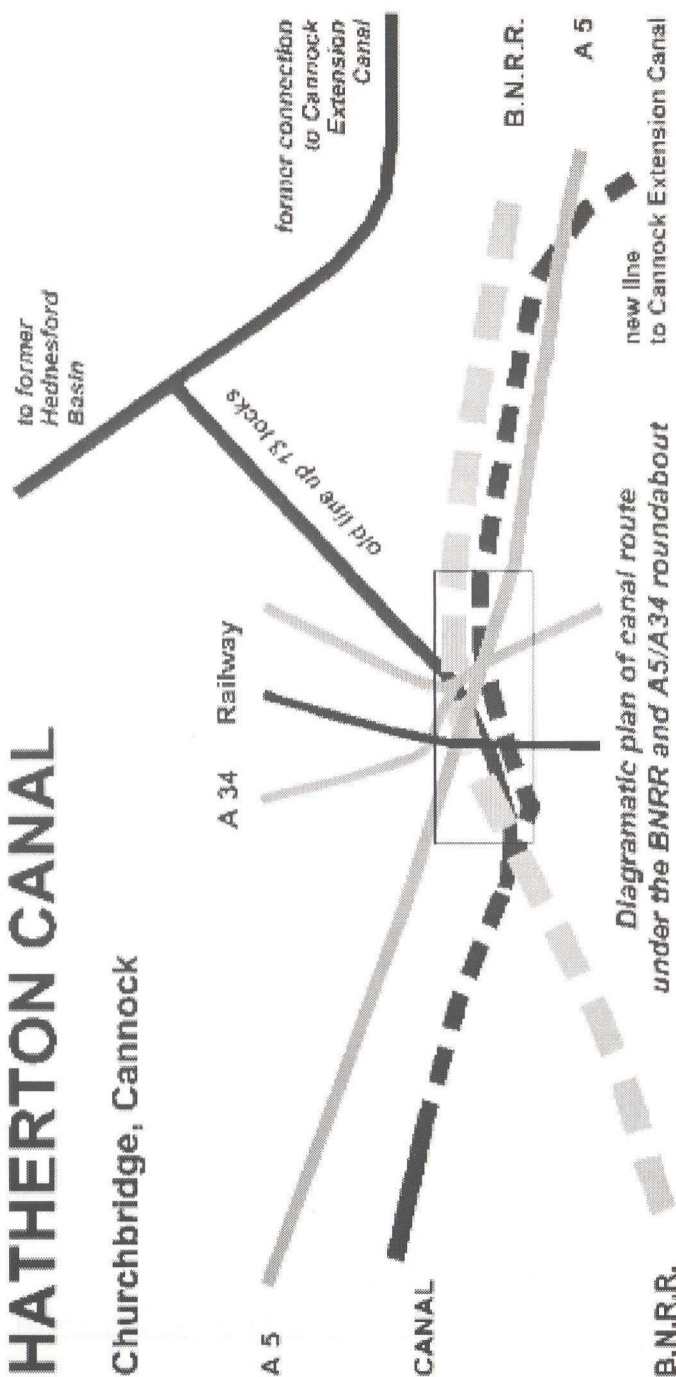
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FURTHER DETAILS and TICKETS FROM
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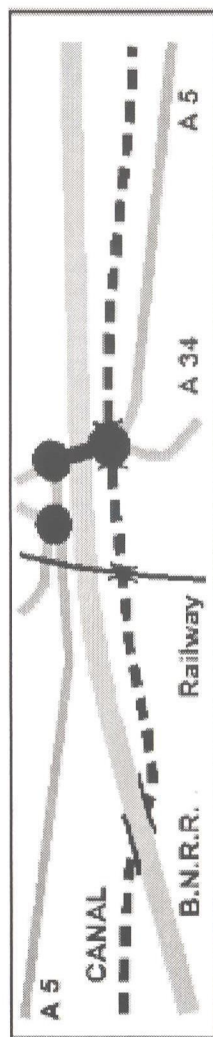
ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TO THE LICHFIELD AND
HATHERTON DAVID SUCHET APPEAL!

HATHERTON CANAL

Churchbridge, Cannock



Diagrammatic plan of canal route
under the B.N.R.R. and A5/A34 roundabout



code: 1001/1

not to scale

PRESS & PUBLICITY

Press & publicity this time covers the period 5th July to 5th October 2002 which has been a comparatively quiet period for once, perhaps marking a period of reflection and consolidation in the Trust's affairs.

Sadly, the untimely death of **Nicholas Grazebrook**, a founder member and former Director of the Trust must be mentioned first, for there were many reports and tributes paid in the local press and within waterways circles, including an obituary in *Waterways World* for October.

News that our fast growing **membership** had put us in the top ten of waterway societies was reported in July as "Canal group makes the top ten" in the *Lichfield Post*. The *Lichfield Mercury* was briefer with "In top ten", and the *Express & Star* followed up with "Canal lovers membership is flowing well".

The presentation of the **Kenneth Goodwin Trophy** to the Trust at the Crick Boat Show was pictured in both IWA's *Waterways* magazine for August and in *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways*, which also included a picture of the Hatherton Canal at Calf Heath, publicising working party dates. **Voluntary work** on the canal was given a further plug in an *Express & Star* article on the Countryside Agency's support for waterways in the region. "Campaigners thank firm for loan of digger and driver" was the self explanatory heading to another report in the *Express & Star* acknowledging the generosity of Chasetown Civil Engineering for their excavation work at Darnford Lane site, whilst the help of KESCRG that weekend was acknowledged in the same paper by "Canal work gets a boost".

Publicity for the **David Suchet Appeal** continued with a full page advert in the September *Canal Boat* magazine and by distribution of the Appeal leaflet in IWA's *Waterways*. An Appeal page with a different format was featured in *Nikon Owner*, the magazine of the Nikon Owners Club International, in conjunction with an article on David Suchet's interest in photography. This reached a different audience and brought some welcome donations from readers. "Cash fight for canal bridge over M6 toll" in the *Express & Star* in August summarised progress with funding the aqueduct and the Trust's efforts to raise the balance. A brief report on completion of the culverts and fund-raising for the aqueduct was carried in the 'Towpath Telegraph' section of *Canal Boat* for October. The use of contractors for this work was explained by our Chairman in responding to an earlier letter in *Waterways World* in October. Two contributions of £500 each to the David Suchet Appeal from WRG North West and WRG Boat Club were reported by the *Express & Star* in September as "Delight at a gift of £1,000 for canal".

Phil Sharpe

DEVELOPMENT AT BROWNHILLS

The link between our two canal restorations is provided by the navigable section of the Wyrley & Essington Canal passing through Brownhills. This section of the canal has been subject to a number of changes in recent years including new housing estates at Pelsall, Clayhanger and in Brownhills and the latest of these is the housing currently being built off Silver Street. Whilst it regrettably occupies what was until recently pleasant green fields, the layout and design is sympathetic to the canal and it is creating an attractive canalside development. The canal frontage along Silver Street itself has also recently been landscaped and Brownhills is increasingly conscious of the asset that such a waterfront can provide.



New housing at Brownhills, Basin entrance on the right (Photo Phil Sharpe)

On the bend of the canal at Silver St is an old canal basin, originally built as one of a pair of railway interchange basins, the other one having been largely filled in some years ago. The plans for the site included a Community Centre alongside the basin but recent ideas have favoured another site for this where there would be more car parking space. Seeing an opportunity, the developers proposed to fill in the basin and build yet more houses on it. Fortunately, this provoked considerable local opposition and the Brownhills Local Committee set up a working group, on which the Trust and IWA are represented, to consider alternative uses for the site whilst preserving the basin. Their first action was to recommend to Walsall Borough Council retention of the basin for canal related amenity use, in accordance with the Local Plan, and this has now been accepted. BW have drawn up indicative plans for a facilities building and moorings and they and the Council are investigating sources of funding. Other possibilities discussed include a slipway, a canoe centre and day hire boats. Meanwhile several public narrowboat trips have been arranged from the waterfront. The local people are looking forward to the day when the Lichfield and Hatherton canals are both re-opened and Brownhills again becomes the centre of the northern BCN network.

Phil Sharpe

New Members October 2002

Mr D. A. Dwyer	Lichfield	Mrs R.G. Hoad	Sutton Coldfield
Mr M.J. Watton	Lichfield	Mr Hoad	Sutton Coldfield
Mr A. D. Hale	Lichfield	Mr & Mrs M. A. Savage	Handsacre
Mr P. Hancox	Lichfield	Mr N. S. G. Bostock	Tixall, Stafford
Ms J. Handley	Albrighton	Dr D. F. Smallbone	Buxton
Mr R. Harris	Little Aston	Mrs Smallbone	Buxton
Mr P. Green	Walsall	Mr & Mrs M. Stimpson	Rickmansworth
Mr B. T. Johnson	Matlock	Mrs A. J. Griffiths	Stone
Mr P. Evans	Streethay	Mr S. E. Stephens	Netherton
Mrs G. Tait	Lichfield	Mr & Mrs A. N. H. Gulvin	Chatham
Mr P. Fear	Halesowen	Mr R. K. Clowsley	Cumnor, Oxford
Mr D. M. Archer	Pelsall	Mr J. M. W. Smith	Whittington
Mr C. Hale	Oldbury	Mr M. H. Foulkes	Curborough
Mr S. Wood	Darlaston	Mr I. S. Mackenzie	Newton Abbot
Mr P A Forshaw	Rugby	Mr R. Smith	Sutton Coldfield
Mr P. C. Blundell	Coventry	Mr R. A. Kilsby	Duddington
Mr I. W. Hind	Penkridge	Mr & Mrs A. Eggington	Lichfield
Mr A. Bagshaw	Willenhall	Mr B. Buckley	Cheslyn Hay
Dr P. A. Fryer	Worthing	Mrs P. M. Bolton	Lichfield
Mrs E. E. Brown	Rugeley	Mrs K. M. Crowe	Willenhall
Mr D. Johnson	Shenstone	Rev Helen Woodhead	Whittington
Mr P. Grout	Gnosall	Mr R. Walshaw	Scunthorpe
Mr D. Harwood	Solihull	Mr R. Chappell	Chasetown
Mr L. R. Mann	Morpeth	Mr K. Myatt	Swadlincote
Mr R. Kelly	Walsall	Mr R. H. Hayward	Sheffield
Mr S. Taylor	Redruth	Mr D. Lord	Barton u N'wood
Mr P. J. Gardner	Goring	Mr & Mrs. R. Breese	Lambourn
Mr I. D. Bateson	Haslemere	The Historic Narrow Boat Owners Club	Newark

1998 DATA PROTECTION ACT

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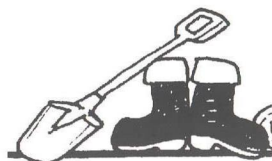
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Hatherton Canal

WORKING PARTIES

Our regular monthly working parties continue and have installed the other two towpath way-mark posts at Oak Lane and Cross Bridge. As usual, during the summer considerable effort has gone into strimming and mowing the towpath and trimming back the hedges, aided by some mid-week visits from our retired members.

The next instalment of the Hatherton Hedgerow Project will be starting in November which will keep us all active and warm over the winter, collecting and burning the brash and clearing the way through the jungle down to the M6. Additional working days will be organised as required.

Hatherton Canal work parties are held on the third Sunday of each month from 10 am. Contact Denis Cooper on 01543-374370 (work) for details of meeting place and extra dates.

Monthly work parties: Sundays: 17 November, 15 December, 19 January, 16 February, 16 March.



Hatherton Canal. New way-mark post at Cross Bridge (Photo Phil Sharpe)

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 Ogleby 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.

PRESIDENT Eric Wood **VICE-PRESIDENT** David Suchet O.B.E.

DIRECTORS

Chairman	Brian Kingshott	☎01547 530457
	Park Cottage, Hopton Castle, Craven Arms, SY7 0QF	
Vice-Chairman	Phil Sharpe	☎01889 583330
	34 Old Eaton Road, Rugeley, Staffs. WS15 2EZ	
Finance	Bob Williams	☎01543 671427
		Fax 01543 677687
	Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JP	
Minutes Secretary	Sue Williams	☎01543 671427
		Fax 01543 677687
	Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JP	
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	
Land Liaison	Mike Smith	☎01283 790543
	Brookhay Cottage, Brookhay Lane, Lichfield WS13 8RQ	
Strategic Policy	Rob Davies	☎/ Fax 01543 432079
<u>OTHER OFFICERS</u>		
Marketing & Sales	Michael Brown	☎01543 302908
Lichfield Publicity	Janette Horton	☎01543 262466
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Web Master	Sue Williams	e-mail: info@lhcert.org.uk

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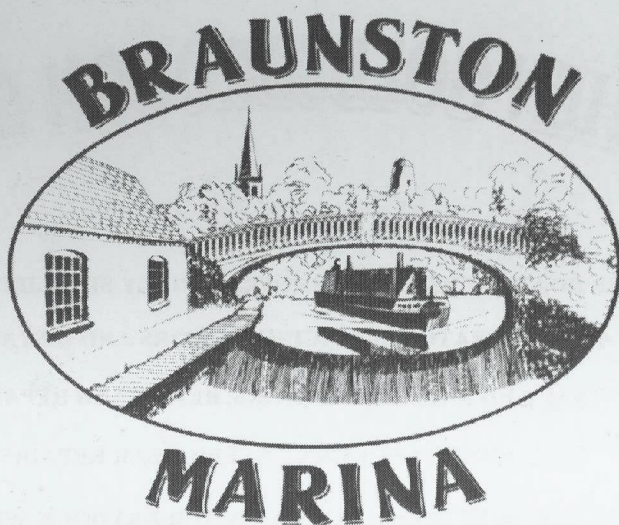
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Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited

DAVID SUCHET APPEAL UPDATE

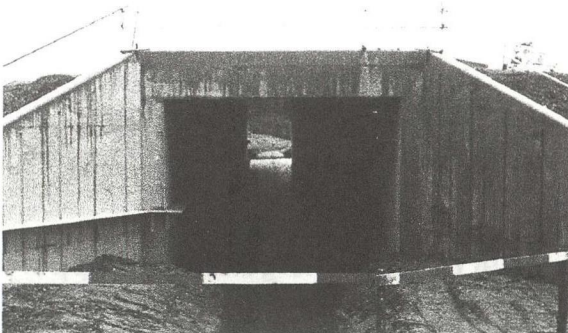
October 2002

As a contributor to the work of the Trust, we feel sure you would like to know what progress has been made through your support, what the situation is now and how much is still needed.

From its launch in January 2001, the David Suchet Appeal soon raised the first £150,000 needed to pay for enlarging the culvert under a new roundabout for the A5/A34 roads alongside the M6 Toll motorway [BNRR] at Churchbridge, near Cannock.



David Suchet at the site of the A5/A34 roundabout culvert for the Hatherton Canal, near Cannock.

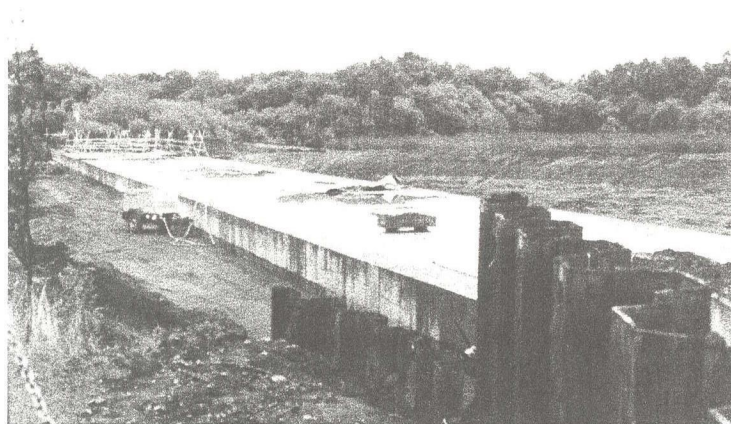


The same culvert, completed to navigable dimension with the Washbrook flowing through.

Work began in January 2002 when David Suchet came to visit the site (above). By July, the structure had been completed to take both the Washbrook stream and the Hatherton Canal.

Our campaigning persuaded the Government to apply new policy guidelines to also have enlarged to navigable standard the main culvert under the new motorway itself at Churchbridge, valued at £350,000, using 'internal funding' without recourse to the Trust.

Contributions to the David Suchet Appeal have therefore led to achieving work costing £500,000... and more!



Construction of the main culvert for the Hatherton Canal to pass under the M6 Toll motorway near Walkmill Lane, Cannock.

Not only have these two culverts now been built, with water flowing through, but the cost also serves as match funding for the Trust's application for a European Regional Development Fund grant of over £250,000 to attract further funding towards full restoration of the Hatherton Canal by acquiring:-

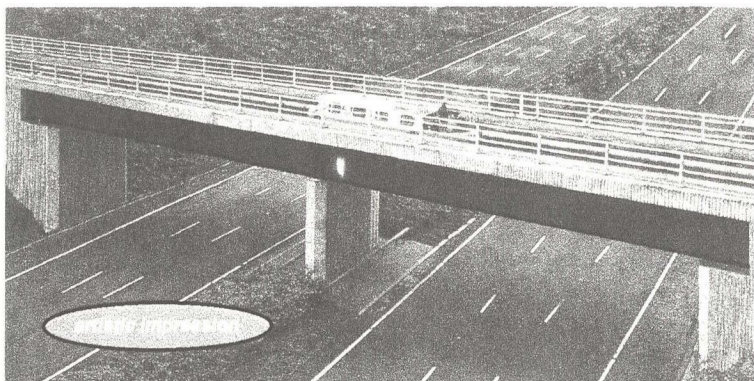
- professional Studies and Reports for engineering, water supply, environmental assessment, economic benefits,
- additional construction for the Canal around the Motorway works near Cannock,
- key areas of land to secure the future of the whole route of the Hatherton Canal.

All this has become possible through the generous support of so many people, groups and businesses donating funds to the David Suchet Appeal. This really got things started. The Trust is very grateful to everyone who has contributed.

However, it does not end there as the Lichfield Canal needs to cross over the M6 Toll Motorway by an aqueduct to be built at Muckley Corner, near Lichfield, at an estimated cost of £500,000.

The motorway builders are only required in their contract to provide at their own expense the foundations for the aqueduct. Now, the Highways Agency have issued a Variation Order to the contractor to construct the abutments and central column up to canal level, subject to the Trust obtaining the funding.

- ⇒ Work on the aqueduct foundations is starting now.
- ⇒ The Manifold Trust is giving the Trust a generous private grant of £250,000 which will pay for the supporting columns.
- ⇒ Manufacture and installation of the steel canal trough will cost an estimated further £250,000.
- ⇒ About £100,000 is already available towards this cost.



Artistic impression of the Lichfield Canal aqueduct crossing over the M6 Toll motorway.

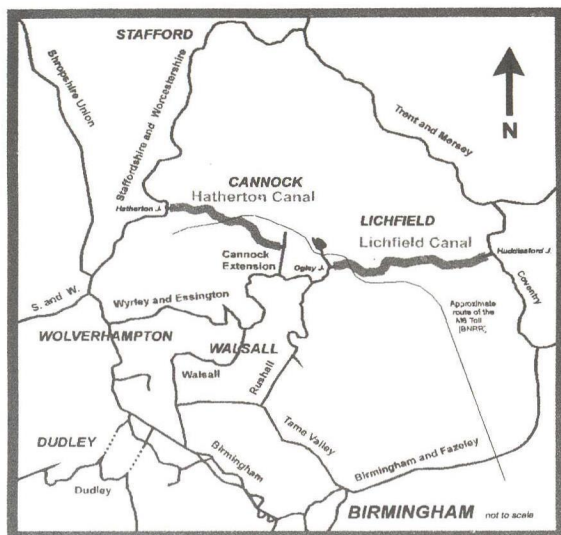
We still need all the help we can get to raise the remaining £150,000 by the end of April 2003 to be able to order the steel trough for installation in Autumn 2003.

To make donations, please enter your details overleaf and send with a cheque made payable to "LHCRT—David Suchet Appeal"

*TO: David Suchet Appeal,
29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, Staffs. WS7 0JP.*

Please sign if you are a taxpayer and wish the Trust to reclaim tax as a Gift Aid donation.

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The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals form the strategic link between the Birmingham Canal Navigations and the very active canals to the North East and North West, thus revitalising over 50 miles of inland waterways in the West Midlands Region.

I am so pleased that the threat to our canals posed by construction of the M6 Toll is being overcome through the magnificent support of so many to this Appeal. My thanks go to everyone who has contributed in whatever way to ensuring that the route of these two important canals is being secured for the future.

I know that every effort is being made to raise the remaining £150,000 by next Spring to install the aqueduct in the Autumn before the new motorway is opened to traffic. Let's not fail now!

Hon. Vice-President

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