

£1.00 (Free to Members) Issue No 34 WINTER 2003

The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton
Canals Restoration Trust



David & Sheila Suchet in front of Aqueduct centre columns.
(photo Bob Williams)

Don't forget

Barn Dance Saturday 19th April 2003, 7.30pm

AGM Saturday 26th April 2003 2.00pm

Both at Whittington Village Hall

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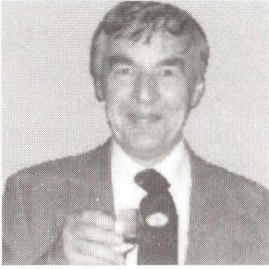
Trent & Mersey Canal

KINGS BROMLEY WHARF



V.A.T No. 203321527

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



The cover date on this CBW is Winter 2003. Thus the Lichfield & Hatherton enters the 16th year of its existence (although the Trust itself is just a little younger). When we hold open meetings we are often asked when we hope to have our canals ready and we have learnt a degree of caution in formulating our response. A strong sense of optimism is an essential requirement in canal restoration work and we remain as optimistic as ever that the re-opening of both canals is achievable within a reasonable time span. There is a

very long way still to go but so much of the ground work has been done, slowly, painstakingly and methodically.

The short-term demands placed on the Trust by the building of the M6 Toll Motorway have preoccupied us for over a decade and have been a recurring theme of this column during my Chairmanship. Anyone attempting to drive along the A5, and any connecting roads between Coleshill and Cannock, will know that the building process is approaching its end. The great scar across the Staffordshire countryside has been transformed into what is clearly almost a completed highway. Bridges, embankments and intersections are in place and even the carriageways look virtually ready for traffic in many places. We hear that work is running ahead of schedule and that the road may well be open in late autumn this year.

On the Hatherton at Churchbridge culverts 144 and 155 were completed some time ago and we can see the continuing problems which we will have to face before the route of the navigation is clear and secure. There is much still to be done but at least the threat of total obliteration of the route which faced us two years ago has been lifted.

On the Lichfield Canal we have achieved much but there is still a way to go before we can be sure that the canal crossing can be achieved before the motorway "goes live" All our efforts are now focused on the building of the aqueduct between Brownhills and Muckley Corner. The tremendous public support for the David Suchet Appeal has enabled the Trust to commission the construction of the side abutments and the centre columns of the aqueduct and work on these was well advanced as we went to press. This, in itself, is a huge achievement, but the biggest step remains to be taken.

(continued over)

Barn Dance Sat April 19th Whittington Village Hall
see page 20 for details

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

It is vital that the steel trough is put in place before the new road opens. The advantages in cost are self-evident. Access to the site will be much easier before the traffic starts to flow and costs will be vastly lower. We must place an order with the manufacturer in early February, at the latest. As I write, we are still £100,000 short of the amount we need to go ahead. There are many calculations to be made and funds continue to be donated but time is very short. We have to weigh our determination to succeed against the proper prudence required of Trust Directors.

We are determined to go ahead with the construction and erection of the trough if at all possible. Not only will this save the Trust very large sums of money in the future but will also send out a clear statement of our determination to succeed. We have come so far since 1988 and we must make 2003 a year to remember. If you can help with raising this final sum of money for the Suchet Appeal you will be helping the Trust to make an enormous step forward. We will be truly walking with destiny in 2003.

Brian Kingshott

We are looking for a volunteer to become Secretary to the Trust Council. At present the main duties are taking, processing and disseminating the minutes following the monthly meetings of Council. These duties could expand as the work of the Trust progresses.

The Council meetings are currently held in Lichfield on the second Wednesday Evening of each month. This is an important post and would suit someone with a keen interest in the waterways. It does not require a detailed knowledge of restoration work.

If you are interested please contact Brian Kingshott – Park Cottage, Hopton Castle, Craven Arms, SY7 0QF Tel (01547-530457) - e mail brian@park-cottage.fsnet.co.uk



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Lichfield Canal Aqueduct over the M6 Toll (BNRR)

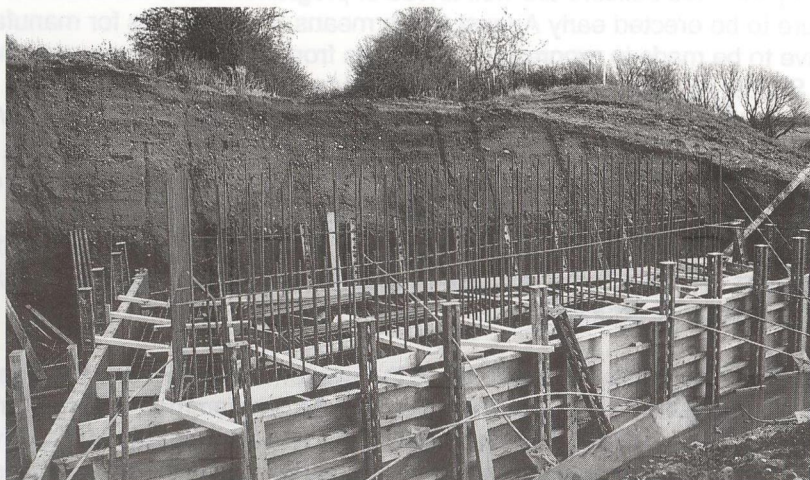
The current position is as follows:-

Approval in principle document.

The final version of this has now been approved with the general arrangement incorporating all the main features which we had requested such as, centre support between carriageways, elimination of approach spans, provision for deep lock (to replace locks 7 and 8) etc. Construction is to be carried out in 3 phases.

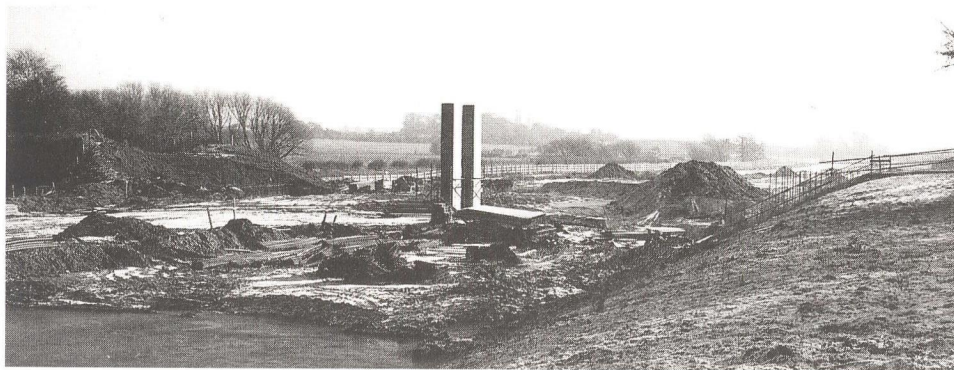
Phase I. will consist of the centre support and the parts of the 2 abutments located adjacent to the hard shoulders. The centre support comprises twin columns on a common foundation. The western abutment comprises the head wall parallel to the hard shoulder and the first parts of the two side walls. The eastern abutment will be a structure of 4 walls which not only support the end of the aqueduct but also form a chamber to house the necessary water back pumping facilities for the new deep lock.

The cost of these 3 structures is to be divided between Midland Expressway Ltd. (MEL) who as directed by the Secretary of State will pay for foundations and items below ground level and the Trust who have committed up to £200,000 (funded by the Manifold Grant) for the parts above ground up to and including the bridge bearings. The drawings for all this work have been made and construction is well advanced with all the foundations in place and the centre columns completed.



Foundations for aqueduct east abutment, canal embankment behind. (photo P Sharpe)

Lichfield Canal Aqueduct over the M6 Toll (BNRR)(continued)



General view of Aqueduct site with central Columns (photo Phil Sharpe)

Phase II will comprise the metal trough together with walkways and hand-railing on both sides. This structure has to be manufactured off site and then bolted in place. The Trust has obtained quotations from three Highways Agency (HA) approved manufactures and both HA and MEL have agreed that the Trust can place orders directly with the lowest tenderer (Rowecord Ltd. of Newport, South Wales). Buying directly will be the cheapest way, but relies upon the Trust being able to raise the necessary finance for the work to be carried out within the programme of road construction.

Currently the road builders are well ahead of programme and will need the structure to be erected early August which means commitments for manufacture will have to be made in progressive stages as from February. At present the David Suchet Appeal and the balance of the Manifold Grant account for approximately 2/3 of the funds required. The Trust is in discussion with a VAT specialist to clarify our position which may reduce our liabilities in this area and also early indications are that there may be some saving from the amount of £200,000 committed towards Phase I which can be applied to Phase II. Meanwhile the David Suchet Appeal continues to help "bridge the gap" in the race against time. Still to be resolved is question of responsibility for the future maintenance of the structure.

Phase III will comprise the outer part of the western abutment and the deep lock on the eastern side. These 2 elements cannot be programmed until further funding and the necessary land is available, but it is anticipated that there will be access for the construction from the canal on either side without disturbance to motorway traffic.

John Horton.

MARKETING REPORT

Grand prize draw

The draw took place on Saturday November 2nd 2002 at the BCNS bonfire rally at Galton Valley. The winning tickets were drawn by Martin O'Keeffe, Chairman of BCNS. First Prize won by Mr Doug Birch of Brownhills. List of prize winners elsewhere in CBW.

Bottom Blacking Draw

The draw took place at Kings Bromley Marina on Saturday November 2nd 2002. The winning ticket was drawn by Ian Burnage. Prize won by Mr. & Mrs. A. Capewell of Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent.

Our grateful thanks go to Ian Burnage who presented the David Suchet Appeal with a cheque for £1,527.43. This money was raised by Ian and his family by being sponsored in the BCNS Challenge this last Summer.

Social Evening

This event was held at the Grangemoor Working Mens Club Burntwood, on Saturday 16th November. We were entertained by the El'San Band. This very successful evening was organised by Derek & Margaret Beardsmore and thanks to their hard work, £722.50 was raised towards the David Suchet Appeal.

Aylesbury Canal Society

Following our visit earlier this autumn, Bob & Sue Williams took the audio visual display to the Society's Social Evening held at Aylesbury on Saturday 23rd November. A cheque was presented to Bob & Sue for £500 for the David Suchet Appeal, this being the proceeds from their Charity Auction held last September.

Summary

Phew!!!! What a year so much going on, I don't now how we found the time to fit it all in. We had four visits from David and Sheila Suchet during the year. Bob Williams and the team paid numerous visits, some quite far afield, to various clubs and functions with the audio visual display and sales stand. The Marketing team also visited over twenty different venues around the country throughout the summer, and we have had a noticeable increase in our membership and overall profit in excess of £10,000 plus £1,367.50 to the David Suchet Appeal.

Well done Marketing Team.!

(continued over)

Thanks to Bob Houghton who requested that the cheque for £25 for payment for his role of timekeeper in the Cathedral Dash races be made out to L&H. (Bob is one of the Lichfield work party volunteers.)

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

Mooring Space at Alvecote Marina

The Trust still has a mooring space available at Alvecote Marina. For more information please contact. Bob Williams: tel. 01543 671427, or Phil Sharpe: tel. 01889 583330.

Forthcoming events

We will be attending the Boat, Caravan & Outdoor Show at the N.E.C, Birmingham, Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd February 2003. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Team Leader. Bob Williams: tel. 01543 671427.

Following our very successful Boat Gathering at the home of Eric & Doreen Wood last Easter, Eric has very kindly offered to hold another Gathering this Easter with a coffee morning and a bring and buy sale, from Friday 18th – Sunday 20th of April.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is with deep sadness that I have to announce the death of Ian Humphries, a member of our Marketing group, who died on 21st November 2002 . We offer our deepest sympathy, to Trish and her family.

Michael Brown Chairman of Marketing



David Suchet and the Mayor of Lichfield, Doris English (photo Bob Williams)

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held as usual in late April, on Saturday 26th at Whittington Village Hall (see formal notice). It falls this year between 2 bank holiday weekends which will both be busy times for the Trust. The weekend before is our Easter Boat Gathering and Barn Dance, details of which are given elsewhere, whilst a week later we are hosting a Canal Study Weekend by Kingdom Tours. The AGM will therefore be primarily a business meeting but will have added interest with an audio-visual campaign and restoration update and a visit to see progress on our main restoration site at Tamworth Road. We hope to see as many members as possible at the AGM to help mark our considerable progress this year.

DIRECTORS

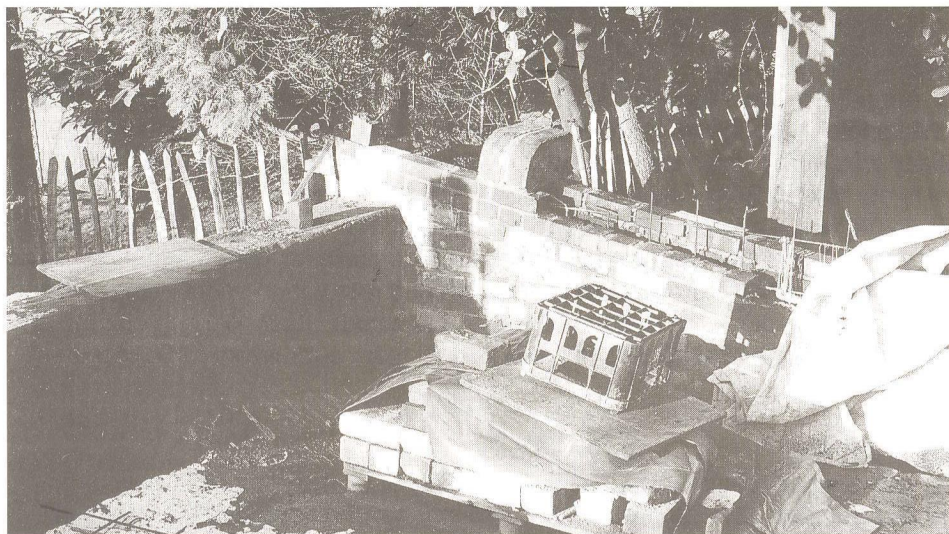
One of the main items of business at the AGM will be the election of new directors and trustees. Mike Smith and Sue Williams were co-opted to the Board in August and October respectively and are now standing for election for the normal three year term. Mike was formerly a director between 1993 and 1998 and has returned to active involvement in both land liaison and strategic planning roles. Sue looks after our website and also acts as our minutes secretary, pending any other willing volunteer, as well as contributing to Marketing Group. At the same time we are losing two long-standing directors in Denis Cooper and John Horton. Denis was a founder member of the Trust and a director since 1989, but has not been able to attend meetings regularly of late. We are pleased that he will continue to supervise the maintenance work parties on the Hatherton Canal, although any offer of assistance in organising further restoration work from later in the year would be welcomed. John has been a director since 1992 during which time we have made great progress with restoration work in and around Lichfield. John will continue to advise us on some engineering design matters in progress, in particular the completion of work on the aqueduct, and will assist with handing over responsibilities for future working parties.

WATERWAY SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

The annual IWA Waterway Societies Conference in November was this year on the theme of the waterways in 2020. Retiring BW Chief Executive Dave Fletcher gave a most interesting insight into how restoration projects might progress and included the Lichfield & Hatherton in 'Tranche 3' as projects to be underway by 2010 and completed by 2020. Whilst not 'official' policy, this indicates that BW are committed to many more restorations and it is up to us to convince them that our projects should be even earlier in their programme.

(Continued over)

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)



Rebuilding of Lock 26 Bywash in progress (photo Phil Sharpe)

RESTORATION PLANS

The partial loss of both of our restoration directors coincides with a period of consolidation, giving us time to make new plans and, hopefully, find new people to help us take them forward. The agreed plan of work for 2003 concentrates on finishing off the restoration of Lock 26 and doing some additional work on Lock 25, both of which can be done largely from our own resources of skilled labour and with allocated funding. We have had to take the decision not to arrange a Canal Camp this year or to plan for any major input from WRG weekends so as to conserve our funds for the vitally important completion of the aqueduct. Once the funding for this is assured we can resume a more active programme of restoring the canals instead of building motorway bridges which the Government and MEL should have provided. There are limits to what can be done with voluntary labour, however, and it is likely that we will need to concentrate in future more on obtaining grants to fund contract work in order to speed up our rate of progress.

DONATIONS

Donations to the David Suchet Appeal continue at a high level and the funding gap for the aqueduct trough is narrowing all the time. A full list of major donors is as usual given elsewhere but I might highlight particularly generous donations of £1,000 from Mr & Mrs. Riggs and Mr Wiley, £2,000 from Damar Properties, a further £3,000 from IWA Lichfield Branch, and £10,000 from the L. Ron Hubbard Foundation. A promised £4,000 for the restoration budget from Barclays Bank Community Unit has also now been confirmed.

(continued over)

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

HATHERTON GRANT

We have now received an offer of £267,250 for the Hatherton Canal from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF, Objective 2) and by the time you read this we hope the conditions will be met and the grant confirmed. This has taken some 18 months of work and the process has been far from easy. However, the effort has now borne fruit, even if somewhat later than first envisaged. The grant will fund 3 related elements; reports, land and construction. The reports will be contracted to professional consultants and comprise a comprehensive set of studies consisting of a detailed route definition and engineering report including water supply and hydrology, an economic benefit study and an environmental assessment. The limited allocation for land will go towards acquisition of key sections of land in private ownership to secure the continuity of the route. The money for construction will fund further work associated with the M6Toll, although the delayed confirmation of the grant has made obtaining agreement on this more difficult. Much work will now be needed to fully specify the studies and to persuade MEL/CAMBBA to undertake further work for us at this late stage in their programme. It remains to be seen if we can still obtain the full potential benefit of this offer but there is no doubt that it is another major breakthrough for the Hatherton Canal. It should put us in the position by the end of 2003 of having a fully defined and costed project on which we can base an active partnership to carry it through to realise the identified benefits.

TRAINING COURSES

TWT have arranged a number of courses for volunteers at the BW Training Centre at Hatton and I recently attended those on Health & Safety and on Heritage & Environment Conservation. They were both very useful and interesting and at a subsidised cost of only £15 each they are very good value. More dates are now available from February to April and more topics including Fund-raising, Working With Volunteers, and practical skills such as Masonry, Brick Repairs, Metalwork, Brushcutters, and Banksman, Dumper and Excavator Assessment. Anyone able to use these skills to benefit the Trust can contact me for more details.

Phil Sharpe

LHCRT Membership Rates

Adult £10; Family £15; Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £5; Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Corporate £200; Life Membership £200. To join and for information on Bankers Order and Gift Aid, please contact the Membership Secretary.



Thank you to Michael Shea, Chief Flying Instructor of the Microlight School (Lichfield) Ltd. For donating this photograph of the Lichfield Canal Aqueduct site taken on 18th December 2002.

Donations to the trust

Amounts over £15 from 6th October 2002 to 5th January 2003.

David Stanistreet (£30pm x 3)	90.00	D Foster (with sub.)	50.00
D C Haywood (with sub)	20.00	N Gray (with sub.)	50.00
Commercial Boat Owners Assoc.	25.00	N D Lye (with sub.)	50.00
A J Instone-Cowie (with sub.)	50.00	K Jackson (with sub.)	20.00
Brian Kingshott (returned expenses)	97.00	Dr T Hollingworth (fees)	34.00
Ms J E Davies (with sub)	20.00	H Wootton (with sub.)	45.00
Alan Veness (in lieu of sub as LM)	20.00	M Wright (with sub.)	50.00
Burntwood W. I. (lecture)	30.00		

GRAND PRIZE DRAW RESULT

Our annual draw was made at the B.C.N.S. Bonfire Rally at Galton Valley, Smethwick on 2nd November where an audience watched their Chairman, Martin O'Keefe draw from 7,183 tickets the following lucky winners:-

1. A week on a four-berth narrowboat from Jannel Cruisers, Burton-on-Trent,
No.006780 Mr D. O. Birch, Brownhills.
2. £100.00 in cash,
No. 000199 Mr A. Pritchard, Tamworth.
3. "Gallon of Whisky", kindly returned as a donation to the David Suchet
Appeal and receiving an L&H oval brass plaque,
No. 001882 Mr Spurgeon, Addlestone, Surrey.
4. Waterways World subscription for 12 months,
No. 007246 Mr P. Chilvers, Cannock.
5. Laurence Hogg Productions video,
No. 001637 Mr A. Roberts, Burntwood, Staffs.
6. Miracle Leisure Products,
No. 004979 Mr T. M. Cook, Oadby, Leicester.
7. L&H "NUT" paperweight,
No. 011919 Mr & Mrs J. Beale, Brownhills.
8. L&H Membership for 1 year,
No. 001542 Mrs L. Lewis, East Hunsbury, Northampton.
9. L&H goods,
No. 002093 Mr Halsey, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs.

Our thanks again to the businesses who kindly donated these valuable prizes, and to the thousands of people who bought tickets and made donations which has added over £2,000 to our restoration funds this year.

Bob Williams, Finance Director

Ecology Matters

To all Trust members and friends. Many of you have probably supported the restoration with donations, or participation in the David Suchet, the Brick and other appeals for funds. You may also have spent many a 'happy hour' cleaning bricks or barrowing concrete and rubble from one end of the locks to the other and back. Well, there is perhaps, one more way you can help, particularly if you are gardeners. Hopefully this way would be less stressful on the hands, back (and wallet).

As spring approaches and we start to prepare our gardens for the summer you may well find that Mother Nature has done her thing and saplings of wild trees and shrubs have started to grow in the flower beds. There may be Hawthorn, Holly, Rowan, Sycamore, Silver Birch or Lime. If you have a neighbourhood squirrel you may find Oak or even Chestnut. The usual response to this 'nuisance' is to turf them on to the compost or in the recycling bin. Next time, **PLEASE DON'T**, particularly if they are a metre or more in height. If you can pot them on using the large black pots surplus from last years visits to the garden centres please do so. If this is difficult please give me a call and I will transfer them with minimum possible stress to both tree and garden.

The objective is to help them mature before returning them to the 'wild'. The longer-term aim is to create a wild life corridor along the canal line from the Huddlesford end to Darnford lane. This will encourage wild life to cross the ecologically barren wastelands we know as golf courses. Apart from which it will hopefully look nicer - think Hawthorn hedge, Dog Rose and Honeysuckle!

Once the engineers have finished there are plans afoot to restore the various natural environments in this area. When the time is right there will be plenty of different work to do, so offers to assist in this important aspect of the canal environmental renewal will be very welcome. This type of restoration is particularly popular with many local authorities, engendering their continued co-operation and support.

If you are interested please contact me, in the meantime please rescue those saplings or, again, give me a call.

Mike Battisson

3 Minors Hill, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9W. Telephone 01543 300090

E-mail: mikebattisson@hotmail.com

Mike Battisson

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 13th Annual General Meeting of
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited will be held at
**Whittington Village Hall, Main Street,
Whittington, Staffordshire**
On Saturday 26th April 2003 at 2.00pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting 13/04/2002
3. Matters Arising
4. Directors' Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2002
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Directors:
Directors retiring by rotation and eligible for re-election:
 Phil Sharpe
Directors co-opted during year and nominated by Council for election:
 Mike Smith
 Sue Williams
Any other nominations received (see Note 3 below)
8. Appointment of Honorary Examiner:
 West - Chartered Accountants
9. Any Other Business

Note 1: A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy. A Form of Proxy can be obtained from the Vice-Chairman. Such proxies are to be delivered to the registered office of the company at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

Note 2: A summary of the 2002 Annual Accounts, subject to approval by the Examiner, is enclosed. Any member wanting a copy of the full accounts in advance of the meeting should contact the Treasurer Bob Williams.

Note 3: There are currently vacancies on the Trust's Council of Management and it is advisable that any member wishing to be considered for election as a Director of the Trust should contact the Chairman or Vice-Chairman as soon as possible to discuss the opportunities and for information on the nomination procedure to be followed.

Restoration Update & Site visit.

After the AGM tea and biscuits will be served and there will be a Restoration Update audio-visual presentation. This will be followed by a conducted site visit to view progress at Tamworth Road. Transport will be by members' cars.

Please note: Non-members are welcome to attend but can not vote at the AGM.

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

DRAFT BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 December 2002

	31-Dec-2002		31-Dec-2001	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS after depreciation				
Freehold Land at cost (Darnford & Fosseyway)	12,736		12,736	
Improvements to canal land at Darnford (depreciated)	3,027		4,036	
Investment in subsidiary company shares	<u>2</u>		<u>2</u>	
Total Fixed Assets		15,765		16,774
CURRENT ASSETS				
2002 net profit due from subsidiary company in 2008	3,162		1,248	
Loan capital due from subsidiary company in 2003	<u>200</u>	<u>3,362</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>2,048</u>
<i>Restricted funds:-</i>				
David Suchet Appeal Fund	84,000		110,000	
Land Fund	2,970		2,610	
Paddle Gear Fund	840		2,188	
Manifold Trust grant balance [2001]	0		450	
Brick Appeal funds, net of expenditure	1,051		n/a	
Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust grant for property fees	1,000		n/a	
Grants towards Lichfield Canal aqueduct	6,000		n/a	
<i>Designated funds:-</i>				
Land Fund, from Trust funds	7,500		7,500	
Land dispute reserve	5,000		n/a	
Restoration budget	6,538		n/a	
<i>Unrestricted funds:-</i>				
Trust funds for general use	<u>11,101</u>		<u>4,252</u>	
Total funds in Deposit a/cs		126,000		127,000
Bank of Scotland Trust current a/c	212		181	
Lloyds TSB Trust current a/c	1,671		2,017	
Lloyds TSB Marketing current a/c	458		248	
Funds in hand or in course of collection	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
Total funds in Current a/cs & in hand		2,341		2,446
Total assets before current liabilities		147,468		148,268
LIABILITIES:				
x		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
TOTAL NET RESOURCES		147,468		148,268
RESERVES:				
Income & Expenditure Account		147,468		148,268

This page and the following page are taken from the Trust's accounts for 2002, subject to formal examination and presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

Any Member requiring a full set of the accounts can obtain one free of charge on application by phone, letter or e-mail to the Finance Director.

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

DRAFT INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002

	2002		2001	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Donations to David Suchet Appeal (+int.+GA tax -costs)		104,290		110,270
Donations received with subscriptions	3,126		2,455	
Donations, other (excl. Marketing collections - below)	2,297		3,728	
Donations specifically to the Land Fund	360		360	
Donation of profits from subsidiary co. (payable 2003)	3,162	8,945	2,210	8,753
Membership subscriptions (excl. Marketing below)		8,692		7,860
Income from Marketing:				
Trust & Public events	3,010		1,120	
Membership subs.collected at shows, etc.	1,326		819	
Brick Appeal (2001, Piling Appeal)	2,474		1,132	
Grand Prize Draw	1,796		2,205	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements, Interest	3,167		2,237	
	11,773		7,512	
less Social Events proceeds to Suchet Appeal	-1,368	10,405	n/a	7,512
Tax recovered by Gift Aid (excl. Suchet Appeal)		4,394		2,965
Wayleave & Easement		9		509
Grants for specific projects		13,108		23,673
		149,843		161,542
Bank interest	103		614	
Retail Trading loan interest	41	144	111	725
TOTAL INCOME		149,987		162,267
EXPENDITURE				
Rest.costs, L.C., Darnford & Fosseyway	286		1,924	
Rest.costs, Tamworth Road, Locks 25 & 26	5,203		6,643	
Rest.costs, Tamworth Road, Locks 25/6 paddle gear	1,348		0	
Rest.costs, Tamworth Road, Lock 25 "Towpath Trail"	0		8,523	
Restoration costs, Hatherton Canal	0		294	
Sub-total	6,837		17,384	
Administration (excl. Suchet, AGM, Ins. below)	2,829		2,403	
Direct cost of Marketing	3,564		2,028	
Direct cost of Suchet Appeal (net of 2001 reimbursement)	-840		1,787	
Membership & Magazine administration	2,991		2,079	
Accommodation, etc. (wrg visits)	898		801	
Tools, Plant & Machinery	444		1,116	
Memberships (IWA; LDIA; PWG)	111		142	
Professional fees and costs	2,536		15,103	
Hire of hall for A.G.M.	20		20	
Insurance premium (IWA)	388		287	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-19,778		-43,150
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS ON TRUST ACTIVITIES		130,209		119,117
less Depreciation of canal improvements at Darnford	1,009		1,009	
Depreciation of machinery (cost £1,000+ per item)	0	-1,009	500	-1,509
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		129,200		117,608
Payment from Suchet Fund for Hatherton Canal 'Culvert 155'		-130,000		
Retained Surplus brought forward		148,268		30,660
Retained Surplus carried forward		147,468		148,268

(This page does not form part of the formal accounts, only a summary of the totals)

Donations to the David Suchet Appeal

Amounts over £20 from 6th October 2002 to 5th January 2003.

Rev I B Cook (additional)	Mr & Mrs J L Bowley	D Foster (with sub)
J D Jones (additional)	G J Cooper (additional)	Mrs E B Davies
S P King (additional)	Mrs D Lear (additional)	Andy C Greenwell
K C Stead (additional)	R H Dixon (additional)	A J Watts
R W Jefferd (additional)	A J Page (additional)	R W McCulloch
R A Evans (additional)	K Jackson (with sub)	Alan Davies
G E Garland (additional)	John Finch (additional)	M J Franklin
C J Foster (additional)	P J Smith (additional)	E A Rogers
Wheulton Boat Club Ltd	Allan Gilbert (additional)	Jo Fraser
P J Jeffries (additional)	Dr T Hollingworth (fees)	A J Capo-Bianco
W H Peters (additional)	J M Smith (additional)	Alan Knibb
G W Groves (additional)	H G May (additional)	N D Lye (with sub)
R J Fenton (additional)	J A Carr (additional)	D Jackman
D C Pinnock (additional)	Colin & Glenys Riggs	David C Wedd
R P C Higgs (additional)	L & H Social Evening	John B Harmon
J I R Horton (additional)	T P Bass (additional)	Ian R Hunt
John Moreton (additional)	M H Smith (additional)	N Gray (with sub)
R J Buckler (additional)	B Dunkley (additional)	M Breadney
Brian Emerson (additional)	D J Read (additional)	D Wiley
Four anonymous donations	M J Davies (additional)	Philip Henry Jones
Ashwood Marina (additional)	W Tallis (additional)	C David Gibson
K G Robinson (additional)	A D Culley (additional)	Paul J Smith
Dr R F Edgar (additional)	M Wright (with sub)	IWA London Region
John Dodwell (additional)	Aylesbury Canal Society	Richard T Willis
R A J Alnutt (additional)	P W Holmes (additional)	A B Coles
John E S Webb (additional)	A R Nuttall (additional)	Mr/Mrs D M Fox
Dr J R Massy (additional)	W R Coburn (additional)	G Main (additional)
Roger W Bater (additional)	S J Walsh (additional)	Mrs Ann Farrell
Mrs J Shilston (additional)	J F Holroyd (additional)	P J Gardner
G R Danbury (additional)	M E House (additional)	Des J Redwood
Lord Mayor of Birmingham	Stan G Taylor (additional)	Mrs D Brittain
J T A Morris (additional)	J L Norton (additional)	M J Prestidge
W A Stephens (additional)	R Squires (additional)	Ms P J Hanham
IWA Northumbria Branch	C R Pyle (additional)	Mr & Mrs R E Lamb
A M & Mrs Austen (additional)	C J Talbot (additional)	Peter Mason
Mrs M E Cooper (additional)	John P Lucas (additional)	Keith R Ashby

Donations to David Suchet Appeal

Amounts over £20 from 6th October 2002 to 5th January 2003.

Commercial Boat Owners Association	Christopher Jacques (additional)
J L Inglis for Sue & Ken Stevens	David Stanistreet (additional)
L. Ron Hubbard Foundation	D C Haywood (with sub.)
Brian Kingshott (returned expenses)	A J Instone-Cowie (with sub.)
IWA, Northampton Branch (additional)	A T M Harwood (additional)
Alan Veness (in lieu of sub as LM)	William B Brown (additional)
David Hodgkinson (additional)	P H Ogden (additional)
IWA, South London Branch (additional)	D H Junkison (additional)
IWA, Chiltern Branch (additional)	T E Phippard (additional)
David Stanistreet (additional)	IWA, Lichfield Branch (additional)
Hatherton Parish Council (additional)	D J L Ward (additional)
D Snell, Damar Properties (additional)	Kenneth R Cann (additional)
Phillip Parker (via website)	H Wootton (with sub.)
Mr Spurgeon (Prize Draw returned)	Ms J E Davies (with sub.)
James Hoseason OBE (additional)	Michael Hursey (additional)
IWA Stoke-on-Trent Branch (additional)	John R Fevyer (additional)
Hammerwich Womens' Institute	John A Oliver (additional)
Michael & Margaret Shaw (additional)	Miss Jane Titley (additional)
Swarkestone Boat Club (additional)	Mrs E A Cane (since deceased)
River Churnet Boat Club (additional)	Trevor H Maggs (additional)
Mrs Janice F Bennett (additional)	Michael Jon Davies (additional)
Mrs M E Meacham (re late Father)	Dr Edward Pringle (additional)
Mr & Mrs I S J Dickins (additional)	Brian E Partridge (additional)
43 donations up to £15 each	
IWA, Birmingham & Black Country & Worcestershire Branch (additional)	Ian Burnage, 2002 BCN Challenge sponsorship

Donations to the Brick Appeal

from 6th October 2002 to 5th January 2003.

Alan R Wedge, Les & Josie Travell, Mrs. G F Webber, S G Morley, P D Bennion,
Burntwood W. I.

The draft Accounts for 2002 elsewhere in this issue show what a magnificent response there has been to our fund-raising efforts. We are most grateful to everyone who has contributed during the year, especially to The David Suchet Appeal, and helped to bring growth to Marketing and Membership.

Bob Williams, Finance Director

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

BARN DANCE

Saturday, April 19th, 2003

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PRESS & PUBLICITY

Press & publicity this time covers the period 5th October 2002 to 5th January 2003.

Restoration work by KESCRG on Lock 26 in September was pictured in the *Lichfield Mercury* with a report simply headed "Navvies", and the *Lichfield Post* pictured the excavator loaned by Chasetown Civil Engineering at work at Darnford Lane under the title "The 'modern' navvies". The start of the second winter of work on the Hatherton Canal hedgerow project was presaged in the *Express & Star* by "Canal hedgerow work continues", and *Canal & Riverboat* for January reported "£25,000 for Hatherton hedgerow restoration" in which Mike Youe of BW paid tribute to the help from our volunteers.

Progress with **the David Suchet Appeal** was summarised as "Six months to raise aqueduct cash" in the November *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways* magazine, which also briefly reported on the excavations at Darnford Lane and our postcard. The donations of £500 each from WRG North West and WRG Boat Club were acknowledged by "Cash boost for bid to bridge canal gap across motorway" in the *Lichfield Mercury*. Donations from the Lichfield Branch of IWA to several projects including £4,000 in total to the Trust were marked by "Canals get cash donation" in the *Express & Star*. The *Lichfield Post* went one better with "Boost for David Suchet canal appeal" and a colour picture of David on the front page plus further colour pictures inside including Brian Kingshott receiving the cheque from Branch Chairman Tim Burgin captioned "Canal fundraisers delighted by extra monies". Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant's visit to see progress on the M6 Toll in October, including the two culverts at Churchbridge and construction of the Cranebrook Aqueduct, was also reported in several local papers.

The visit by David Suchet on November 28th to view progress at Lichfield and Cannock and promote his Appeal was particularly successful in attracting **television coverage** that evening on both local news programmes. ITV showed David driving a dumper, viewing plans of the aqueduct and standing atop the completed centre column, with views of the canal line and interviews with David and with Bob Williams. The BBC interviewed both David and Brian Kingshott and showed the aqueduct columns, the foundations for the abutments, a route map and completed restoration work on Lock 25. (continued over)



PRESS & PUBLICITY (continued)

The papers were also present in force, resulting in a dramatic colour picture of David in front of the aqueduct columns appearing in the *Birmingham Post*, captioned "Canal cause: Actor Suchet appeals for cash to complete new aqueduct over M6 Toll". The *Express & Star* had pictures of David helping switch on the Christmas lights in Lichfield in "TV star and crowds at the big light show" and also reported "Race against time to raise cash for canals". The *Lichfield Mercury* ran the storyline "Poirot star's plea for canal cash" with colour pictures of David and Sheila winding a paddle at Tamworth Road and David on the dumper bravely accompanied by the Mayor of Lichfield, Doris English. They also included a photo of IWA Lichfield Branch's earlier donation to the Appeal. The report in the *Lichfield Post* said "Actor impressed by canal work", also illustrated by several picture of David at Lock 26 with Sheila, the Mayor, Brian Kingshott and John Horton. Some weeks later the *Cannock & Rugeley Mercury* also reported "VIP support for canal project" with a colour picture of David & Sheila winding a paddle similar to the Lichfield edition but with a photo and news of support from Fred Pritchard.

Staffordshire Life magazine interviewed David on the day of the visit and the resulting article in the January edition titled "Poirot locked up in a Lichfield drama" was lavishly and attractively illustrated with colour pictures of the aqueduct supports, dumper driving, restoration work, Trust members, a map, and excellent pictures of David & Sheila including one at Tamworth Road on the cover. They even found space for a further small illustrated article about IWA's earlier donation to the Appeal headed "Poirot pulls in the punters". Do these headline writers never run out of inspiration ? !

The waterways press held space for brief reports in their January editions, with *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways* reporting "Suchet appeals for final £100,000" and showing David & Sheila inspecting plans of the aqueduct with Phil Sharpe. The report in *Waterways World* was "Nearly there - just £100,000 to go!" with a photo of David and Sheila in front of the aqueduct centre columns. *Waterways World* also separately reported on the ERDF "Grant for Hatherton Canal", which was further publicised by a colour picture in the *Express & Star* of David with Cannock property developer Fred Pritchard and his vintage Lagonda car at Walkmill Way, headlined "Poirot celebrates canal cash" and "Grant to restore waterway". Both these magazines also reported on the Waterway Societies Conference held in November, at which BW's Dave Fletcher predicted the L & H would be among their "Tranche 3" schemes to be underway by 2010 and completed by 2020. Reports on the Waterways Trust AGM also mentioned their support for the L&H, whilst a letter in *Canal Boat* suggested that we should be even higher up on BW's list.

Phil Sharpe

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Mr K Jackson	Little Aston	Mr N. Gray	Reigate
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Mr A. J Instone-Cowie	Warrington	Mr & Mrs J Lee	Braunston
Mr I. R. Osborne	Hertford	Mr E .L .Pizzey	Alveston
Mr H. Wootton	Wolverhampton	Mr D. Cathels	Sheffield
Mr Michael Blackwell	Earls Barton	Mr W. Beckwith	London W4
Mr Mark Blackwell	Earls Barton	Mr R. Steed	Harefield
Mr R. Locke	Bradford on Avon	Mr G. C. Britton	Alvechurch
Mr J Sowerby	Mapperley	Mr P Kirchoff	Wilnecote
Mrs L. Lewis	East Hunsbury	Mrs J Kirchoff	Wilnecote
Mr D. C. Kearney	Pershore	Mr A. M. Lucas	Crewe
Miss A .M. Walker	Northampton	Mr C. L. Roberts	Brownhills
Mr R. G. Jelfs	Staunton on Wye	Mr T. P. Bass	Salcombe
Mr & Mrs D. Wiley	Walsall	Mrs E. J. Bass	Salcombe
Mr D. Redwood	Sutton Coldfield	Mr A. G. White	Radbrook
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Mr P. Green	Walsall Wood	Mr P. Spray	Leeds
I.W.A.	Stoke on Trent	Mr P. H. Gardner	Weedon
Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd.	Burntwood		

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.

Thank you to Trevor Youngman of Tudor Signs Walsall for designing and donating new car/boat stickers and for incorporating the Trust's Web site address. These stickers are sent to all new members and are available from the trust for anyone else for a small donation.

Thanks again Trevor for your generosity to the Trust and your support .

DAVID SUCHET PROMOTIONAL VISIT

For a day in late November, you could not have wished for better weather to stage major outdoor publicity by David Suchet for the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals. With so many film and TV engagements, at home and abroad, only at short notice could David let us know he was free on the 28th to hurriedly summon reporters from BBC TV, Carlton TV, The Daily Telegraph, Staffordshire Life and waterway magazines, the local press and other interested parties who rose to the occasion marvelously.

David's focus was very much on publicising the need to raise the final £100,000 to complete the Lichfield Canal aqueduct before the new M6 Toll motorway is opened to traffic towards the end of this year. After a photo-call at Lock 26, now virtually fully restored, CAMBBA (the motorway builders) seemed to relish the opportunity to escort a big group of visitors to the site of the aqueduct. Timing of the visit was perfect to witness two slender newly-cast columns standing majestically in the centre of the new road-bed, flanked by abutment foundations. It is with thanks to the co-operation of Highways Agency orders and Manifold Trust funding that the sub-structure is being built to full height.

The steel canal trough to span the motorway needs to be ordered now to ensure it can be installed later in the year without the added complication of having to work over a live six-lane motorway. The Trust is making every effort to close the £100,000 gap, both by raising funds and actively eroding the estimated costs. So very many members and other supporters have already given very generously to the David Suchet Appeal, and surely more will give yet as the remaining time reduces rapidly to finish the job properly.

David also visited the Hatherton Canal, gaining satisfaction from knowing it was donors to the Appeal who ensured that the first of two culverts at Churchbridge has been built to navigable dimensions, inspiring the Government to enlarge the second. It was announced that an ERDF grant of £267,250 (reported elsewhere in this issue) has been approved, based on the match funding value of the enlarged culverts. Local businessman, Fred Pritchard - gracing the occasion with a rare appearance of his "Poirot-like" 1937 Lagonda – spoke of the benefits the restored canal can bring to the Cannock area in future.

To end a wonderful day, David and his wife Sheila became surprise guests of honour of the Mayor of Lichfield to help switch on the City Christmas lights, of course finding a moment to rouse the large crowds into a round of cheers for the much anticipated Lichfield Canal!

Bob Williams, Finance Director

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.

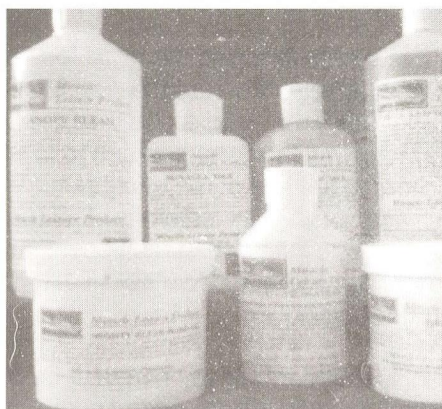
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EUROPEAN GRANT FOR HATHERTON CANAL

Enthusiasts may recall Chris Coburn's "Progress Cruise" in 2000 which took L&H research into European funding all the way by narrowboat to Brussels! Inspiration was found in many examples of huge capital-intensive schemes on inland waterways in north France and Belgium, captured in the popular Laurence Hogg Productions video "Reach For The Stars", available on our mail-order list and website.

At about that time, a new six-year round of European funding was being formulated with very specific 'priorities' and 'measures' applicable in certain redefined "Objective Areas". Due to overwhelming bureaucracy, only recently, when almost half of the eligible period has elapsed have some grants become available! However, we are pleased to announce that we have emerged from two-years of preparation through innumerable local group meetings with an approval for a substantial European Regional Development Fund grant for the Hatherton Canal Regeneration Project.

Regular supporters will be well aware how much the BNRR (now M6 Toll) became a thorn in our flesh without including canal crossings. Thanks to extensive campaigning by the Trust, with exceptional help from people such as Chris Coburn, and more recently David Suchet, it became possible to sway the Government to change their policy to prevent future conflict between roads and canals. Mobilising the nation's supporters, David Suchet's Appeal broke the dead-lock by funding enlargement of one Hatherton culvert, inspiring the Government to demonstrate new policy on the second one. Let us again thank the many hundreds of donors all over the country who made this possible.

Jointly, these costs serve as match funding for a European grant of £267,250 for the eastern part of the Hatherton Canal which lies in the Cannock Objective 2 Area. This phase of the project covers three specific aims:-

- Professional Studies and Reports for engineering, water supply, environmental assessment, economic benefits, to be used for fund-raising.
- Additional construction for the canal around the motorway works.
- Acquiring key areas of land to secure the whole route.

The Trust is particularly grateful to Cannock Chase Council for driving forward the combined funding package for a whole range of projects in their Objective Area which has made our grant possible. It has been hard work getting this far, but the "real work" starts now!

Bob Williams, Finance Director



Lichfield Canal **Working Party News**

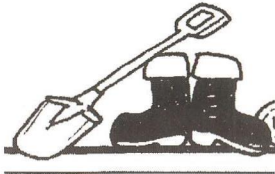
A busy autumn has seen maintenance work on all sites, including repairing the fence at Fosseyway Lane, and work continuing on several fronts at Lock 26. Completing the offside top ground paddle chamber turned out to be a bigger job than expected when a large cavity was discovered beneath the floor. Barry has packed this with clay, cast a new concrete slab and replaced the brick floor. The lock ladder recess also took more effort than anticipated, but Alan's skill in re-bricking the edges has produced a 'proper job'. Thanks to Peter Magee, we have had a stainless steel ladder donated which, after some modification to the brackets, should look very smart. Fitting the ground paddle gear was another job completed and suitably 'test driven' by David Suchet for the photographers on his visit. We have now purchased 2 more paddle stands for Lock 25 to be fitted later in the year. Loan of WRG's JCB803 'blue' for a few days whilst it was moving sites allowed Keith and John to backfill the towpath side lock wall and gravel the surface. Our own JCB and dumper have been taken away for repairs to brakes and steering and fitting roll bars to comply with new regulations. Meanwhile, Peter Matthews had organised the major rebuild of the top end of the bywash channel, with new footings cast and the back wall already partly re-built. This and other work on Lock 26 should keep us busy until the summer, including chamber brickwork repairs and re-pointing, building a quadrant wall, a further section of towpath wall, and rebuilding the bottom end of the bywash. After that we are planning to return to Lock 25 to finish off some outstanding jobs there. Thanks also to Bob, Mike, Simon, Bill, Trevor and the many other regular workers not mentioned above.

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 are also worked and most Wednesday evenings over the summer (from about 5.30 pm). Contact Peter Matthews on 01543-318933 or John Horton on 01543-262466 for confirmation of dates.

Weekend work parties: Sunday 2 and Saturday 15 February; Sunday 2 and Saturday 15 March; Sunday 6, Friday 18 and Saturday 19 April; Sunday 4 and Saturday 17 May; Sunday 1 and Saturday 14 June.

Wednesday evenings: 7, 14, 28 May.

Phil Sharpe



Hatherton Canal

WORKING PARTIES

Completion of our annual summer task of maintaining the towpath was followed by preparation work for the second winter of the Hatherton Hedgerow Project, clearing back to the boundary of the 'triangle' at Saredon Mill Bridge. December's work party fell victim to the weather but the new year should see renewed activity.

Hatherton Canal work parties are held on the third Sunday of each month from 10 am. In February and March we will again be arranging extra dates at short notice to help with the hedgerow work. Contact Denis Cooper on 01543-374370 (work) for details of meeting place and extra dates.

Monthly work parties: Sundays: 16 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June.

Obituary – Ian Humphries

We are very sorry to have to inform you about the death of Ian Humphries, who was a close friend of ours, and a hard-working member of L.H.C.R.T's Marketing Group.

We first became aware that Ian was not very well at the Wychnor Rally over the August Bank Holiday, and he sadly passed away on the 21st November.

Many members who have called at our Marketing Stand will have met Ian, either selling 'White Elephants' or trying to recruit new members. What most people will not have noticed is that Ian was usually there at the beginning and end of each day, putting up and taking down gazebos; lugging out stock from cars, and generally doing all the hard work which needs doing, but is neither glamorous, nor gains any public recognition.

He gave his time and energy willingly, with a smile and without a 'wrong word' to any one. We will never be able to put up a gazebo again without thinking of him – truly a 'gentle man'.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to his wife, Trish, and daughters Kathryn and Jayne.

Derek and Margaret Beardsmore.

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.

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

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