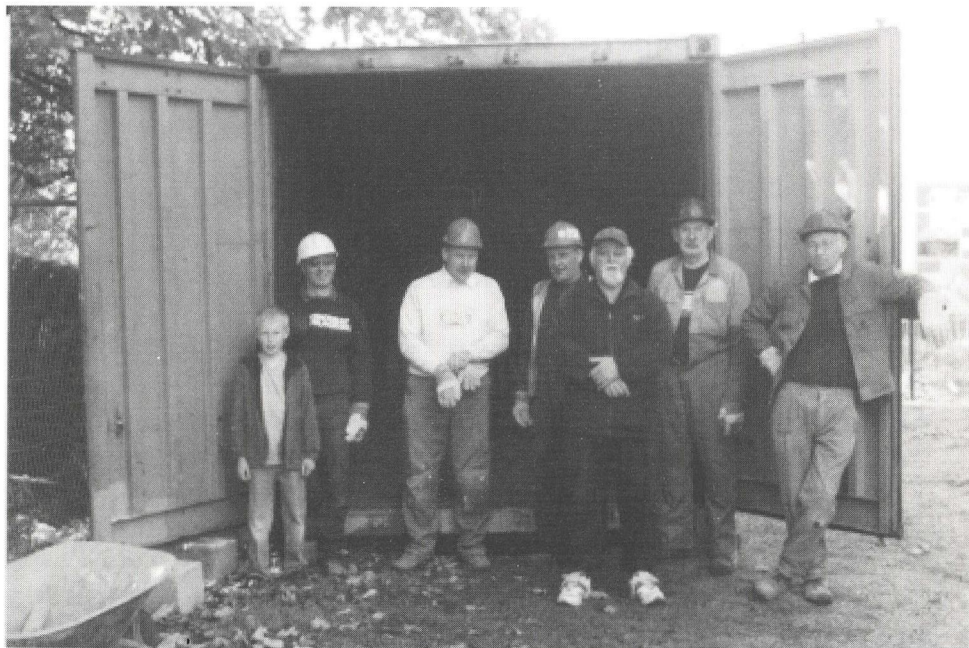


The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hather-
ton Canals Restoration Trust

Issue 38 Winter 2004



Simon and son, Bob, Michael, Keith, Peter and Barry seriously contemplating the job of filling our new container at Lock 25, Tamworth Road, Lichfield
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

Annual General Meeting
Saturday 17th April 2004 Whittington Village Hall
at 2.00pm

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

We start 2004 with excellent news. Trust Council is delighted that three of our most prominent supporters have accepted our invitation to become Patrons. This is a way in which we can record our gratitude to them for their invaluable help in recent years. Chris Coburn did sterling work in raising the profile of the Trust when the motorway threat first emerged. Dr. David Fletcher, as the then Chief Executive of British Waterways, gave us help and advice of immeasurable value. Sir John Smith, through the Manifold Trust, has made generous grants to the Trust, especially the £250,000 which placed the whole aqueduct scheme in the realms of possibility. We are honoured that their contributions will now be firmly embedded in the history of the Trust.

With the Christmas and New Year celebrations now behind me I turn over the first page of the 2004 desk diary to check on my appointments for the month ahead. I see the regular internal meetings of the Trust. These are always the meeting of the full Council on the second Wednesday and the meeting of the sub-groups which concentrate on the details of land, planning, finance and engineering on the fourth Wednesday. Then come the bi-monthly meetings with officers at Lichfield District Council and similar ones with British Waterways. Around these fixed points are arranged the other meetings which the increasingly complex work of the Trust require. The number of these has declined a little since the peak of negotiations with the M6 Toll builders but that vacuum has been quickly filled. The rebuilding of Cappers Bridge, the setting up of the studies on the Hatherton and discussions with land owners place heavy burdens on the officers of the Trust which do not seem likely to decrease in the months ahead.

We are all volunteers and are very happy to shoulder the burdens which fall on us. We enjoy our work, especially when it leads to such rewarding outcomes as the building of the aqueduct and the installing of the culverts. To help share the load I am delighted to welcome three new directors to Council. At our December meeting we co-opted Mike Battisson, Mike Brown and Peter Magee who have all worked hard for the Trust in recent years. I welcome them all as they bring much-needed expertise to our team of directors.

We have much to look forward to in 2004. We certainly must not feel that we cannot equal the achievements of the last couple of years. In many ways the challenges and opportunities are greater than ever. We have undertaken the demanding project of rebuilding Cappers Bridge. (We are now calling it by its historically correct name) The funding comes from our ERDF grant, using the aqueduct as match funding. However, we still have to find a substantial sum of money from our own resources and this will place further heavy burdens on us. Fund-raising is still a priority to meet this need as well as to take advantage of land purchase opportunities as they present themselves.

(continued over)

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

However, it does no harm, occasionally, to look back at our own history to get a proper perspective on what we are trying to achieve. We are sometimes in danger of seeing ourselves as a "two canals" project. We have always striven to get local people to "take ownership" of the project and it was with this in mind that we chose to give the canals names with which people could identify, even if they are not, strictly speaking, technically correct. This has worked well but has had the side-effect of obscuring much of our original purpose, namely the rebuilding of two vital links to the northern BCN. We intended the restoration to be a stimulus to the regeneration of the underused canals of the Birmingham network with all the spin-off benefits to the local economy and society. While we have been successful in building vital local support we still have a long way to go before the wider implications of the restoration are perceived and understood.

The magazine you are reading is, of course, "Cut Both Ways". It is easy to take such names for granted and not to examine the reasons they were chosen. As a one-time teacher of English I understand that too much analysis of text can bestow a significance on words which would amaze the people who wrote them but our magazine title is worth a detailed thought or two. We will all understand that the cut is the canal but why "Both Ways". The canal is cut both ways from the BCN to provide a renewed link to the Coventry Canal in the east and to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal in the west. If we study the map we can see how important this "cut" will be and that it will bring advantages in at least both ways. In fact there are many more than two but geographically it makes much sense. The Lichfield and Hatherton canals are two segments of a single project.

Let us go forward into 2004 in a mood of confidence based firmly on achievement. We have a single great project to manage to completion. It may consist, at present, of many smaller parts but it is our purpose to weld all these into a single and great whole. We are a Trust of some 1400 members all with the combined will to succeed. We are now truly on our way.

Brian Kingshott

Our Vision Statement.

To restore the Lichfield Canal and the Hatherton Canal to re-open waterway links between Staffordshire and the West Midlands, for the benefit of the environment, amenity and prosperity of the people of the Region and to enhance the nation's inland waterway system.

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

DIRECTORS

At the Trust Council meeting on 10th December we co-opted 3 new directors; Michael Brown, Peter Magee and Mike Battisson. Michael Brown has been Chairman of our Marketing Group since 2001 and has been involved with both marketing and work parties over many years. Peter Magee has become increasingly involved with our work as Plant & Equipment Manager and through the Engineering Group. Mike Battisson has taken a number of initiatives as Leader of our Environmental Support Team which have greatly improved our relations with the wildlife interests. All three will be directors of the limited company and trustees of the charity until the next AGM when they will be eligible for election for a 3 year term. These welcome additions considerably strengthen our board, and increase the number of directors to 11. The Trust is always looking for further volunteers to undertake specific duties, either as directors or as other officers, and would particularly welcome assistance with engineering and project planning, with restoration management and with fundraising.

CUT BOTH WAYS

We hope you liked the colour photographs in the centre spread of the last Cut Both Ways (No. 37). Installation of the aqueduct, and with it the completion of the most essential work to protect the restoration routes of both the Lichfield and the Hather-ton canals from the BNRR (M6 Toll), is perhaps the most significant achievement in the Trust's history, and justified the extra cost of a colour insert for once. In fact the unit cost was partly contained by increasing the print run by 800 copies for sending to all the generous subscribers to the David Suchet Appeal who are not actually members of the Trust, to show them what they had helped us achieve. We also have plenty of spare copies for promotional purposes. However, we will not be able to justify colour every time, but we would like to do this again when appropriate, perhaps once a year. The autumn edition next year should have pictures of the Canal Camp and hopefully of work under way on Cappers Lane Bridge. Perhaps a commercial benefactor might offer to sponsor the extra cost of the colour pages (about £300), for which we would be happy to include an appropriate advertisement.

We also hope that you were not too confused by the gremlins that got into the last edition and removed most of the quotation marks and garbled some other punctuation. We should have overcome them this time, but perhaps that is "tempting fate"!?

(continued over)

Membership rates are:

Adult £10; Family £15; Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £5;
Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Corporate £200; Life Membership £200

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The improvements we have made of late to the magazine have put up the cost of this service to our members. Increased postage rates over the years have also impacted on magazine distribution and the administration of membership, although those who pay by bankers order, sign for Gift Aid, or add a donation to their subscriptions all help us to maximise the remaining income for running the Trust and financing our restoration work. Our membership subscription rates have not been altered since they were first set by "The Friends of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals" in 1993, being continued when the Trust took over the membership in 1996. Whilst the Adult (£10) and Family (£15) rates remain appropriate, the effect of increased costs and of inflation over 11 years has had a bigger percentage impact on the balance of income remaining from the Concessionary (£5) subscription than the other membership categories. A recent review agreed that whilst there is no need at present for a general increase in subs, a small increase in the lowest rate to £6 would not be unreasonable and would help our income. It will also help us continue to meet the Inland Revenue's Gift Aid requirement that the value of any benefits to members (i.e. the magazine) should not exceed 25% of the subscription income. To be democratic, we have decided to put this to the AGM for agreement so, if approved, it will come into effect for new members from May and for existing members at first renewal thereafter. Please see the notice of the AGM for the wording of the resolution. We hope this change will not cause any difficulties for our existing members, but in case of problems please speak to Bob Williams.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

The Hatherton Canal lies within both South Staffordshire and Cannock Chase Districts and the revised South Staffordshire Local Plan was recently published for public consultation. The Deposit Plan, November 2003 retains a policy supporting the restoration of the canal, but with revised wording that helpfully now can require a contribution from developers. Discussions have commenced about a proposed mixed use development at Churchbridge with a frontage to the new alignment where integration of the canal with housing could be of benefit to both.

Policy R19 Hatherton Branch Canal

"The Council will safeguard the route of the Hatherton Branch Canal shown on the Proposals Map to allow the restoration of the canal. Development proposals which affect the protected route of the canal will be expected to make adequate provision for or contribute to the restoration of the canal. Development that would prejudice the implementation of the restoration proposals will not be permitted."

Phil Sharpe

LAND OFFICER'S NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

LOOKING BACK

As I review the Trust's progress in acquiring the land we need for our restorations it occurs to me that if an historian, writing in a decade's time, were to look back at our records of land purchases in the year 2003 he or she might conclude that we had not done much work and had achieved nothing. He or she would be right in that the Trust does not own one square inch more land today (31st December) than it did on 1st January. However, despite many distractions by the M6(Toll) and the need to hit the tight timetable for our ERDF grant, a great deal of work was done this year and much of it will bear fruit in the coming year.

In 2003 we agreed purchase terms with 3 landowners and (subject of course to the negotiation of the contracts) our solicitors will complete the formalities in the next few months. We are in the process of acquiring a small area of land adjacent to the M6(Toll) aqueduct which we will need when we raise the embankments to bring the water channel up to the level of the aqueduct. We have also agreed to purchase some 5 acres of land near Great Wyrley that we will need for the new section of the Hatherton Canal, and we have agreed in principle, but have yet to finalise the detail, the purchase of the land needed for the reconstruction of Cappers Bridge near Lichfield. This latter exercise requires the purchase of about $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of farmland on either side of the highway to accommodate the embankments needed to meet the modern road construction criteria – hump backed bridges are no longer permitted! The provision of the land needed for the bridge works is complicated as we must also arrange the transfer of very small areas from British Waterways close to the bridge hole – some of this land was conveyed to the Highways Authority when the original bridge was demolished but some of it was retained by BW. The resolution of which authority owns which part of this territory is taking up a lot of time as the boundaries seem to move each time a new plan or Deed is discovered.

One major disappointment in 2003 was the sale of land which would have enabled us to extend our area of activity near our work sites beside the Tamworth Road in Lichfield. We had been in discussion with the owner for a number of years but were unable to offer him the sort of money he wanted. After we had invested many long hours in discussion with him and with other parties willing to help us buy the area we wanted, the property was sold at auction for a sum way beyond everybody's expectations. We are now in the process of establishing contact with the new owner so we can start discussions all over again.

We have identified, and established contact with, 4 additional landowners on the Hatherton route, 3 of whom have agreed to co-operate with us. One of these, the Staffs County Council, which owns extensive land on both sides of the A5 near Great Wyrley has most generously agreed to convey to us however much of their holding we need for the new canal channel for the token sum of £1.00.

LAND OFFICER'S NEW YEAR THOUGHTS (continued)

LOOKING AHEAD

The completion of these three purchases will be our immediate concern in 2004. On the Lichfield Canal we are in discussion with landowners about the terms for buying 5 further parcels of land. Some of these negotiations have been progressing (and at times not progressing) for a number of years but we will press on as best we can. There is no doubt that the publicity we have received over the completion of the M6(Toll) aqueduct and the Churchbridge tunnels has benefited our land programme as landowners who have in the past had doubts about our ability to complete the restorations have come to realise that we are a serious business and that dealing with us might even be to their advantage. We have recently established relationships with some landowners who previously did not wish to even discuss our aspirations with them.

(continued over)



Picture from Lichfield Cruising Club, captioned as Cappers Bridge near Huddlesford Junction in about 1900. "the BCN scoop-wheel boat being used to drain a section of the Wyrley & Essington Canal by an engine boat with boiler on the far side of the stank, driving by cardan shaft the wheel on the boat which is sunk in the section to be drained, and which is a very effective way of lifting water over a low obstacle".

LAND OFFICER'S NEW YEAR THOUGHTS (continued)

FUNDING

The rate at which we can make progress is, of course, limited by our ability to raise the funds needed, but with our new 'Regular Giving Scheme' fund-raising appeal, which provides donors with the option to elect to contribute directly to the Land Fund, we hope to be able to devote a greater proportion of our resources to land acquisition now that the enforced expenditure on the M6(Toll) projects are behind us.

Members may like to understand the deliberations that go into deciding how much of their valued contributions are committed to land purchase. In my discussions with the landowners I try to establish what their expectations are whilst making it clear that, as a charity, the Trust cannot meet excessive demands, however enthusiastic we might be about acquiring a particular area of land. Where we feel it appropriate we obtain a professional valuation before making an offer, though for small plots or where agreement seems possible at a reasonable price, we do not - some professional valuers have a minimum charge of £500 and this can represent a significant addition to the bill. I then have the problem of persuading my fellow Directors that we should make an offer to purchase at a certain price. This is often a more daunting process than my negotiations with the landowner. I can assure any Members who might fear that their donations are profligately expended that this is far from the case. Some of my colleagues argue passionately for a lower figure as a matter of principle on the assumption that no landowner will ever admit the true value of his property and is bound to be attempting to extort utterly unreasonable monies from our hard won coffers. It can be very frustrating, having arrived at a figure which I believe the landowner might well be prepared to accept, to have to write a letter of offer on behalf of the Trust which I feel sure will be rejected. So, I can assure our readers that their contributions to our cause are jealously guarded and carefully expended and if the process takes longer than ideal, so be it.

As the Trust's activities grow we are becoming increasingly aware that we need to either recruit or consult more professionally qualified people. Though determined to maintain our place clearly in the voluntary sector, we recognise that we must develop our business skills along more professional lines if we are to continue to develop the recognition, support and funding that we need to complete our work. This applies not only to our land acquisition programme, but across the full range of our work.

Mike Smith

For details about our Regular Giving Scheme
contact Bob Williams Tel 01543 671427
Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, WS7 0JP

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DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

Amounts over £20 from 1st October 2003 to 31st December 2003.

	Suchet and Land Funds	Restoration Fund
Mrs J M Blank (Land Fund pledge)	240.00	
Mrs H V Smith (Land Fund pledge)	720.00	
Mrs B M Nichols (Land Fund)	100.00	
Miss D M Skilbeck (Land Fund pledge)	490.00	
Mr C G Watmore (Land Fund pledge)	600.00	
J H King (Land Fund pledge)	300.00	
W B Brown (Land Fund pledge)	144.00	
A D Brookes (Land Fund)	25.00	
Mike & Bobbie Battisson (Land Fund)	50.00	
Richard M Glen (Land Fund)	150.00	
John Moreton (Land Fund)	100.00	
L T Flower (Land Fund)	50.00	
Stanley G Taylor (Land & Restoration)	50.00	50.00
E E Hankins (Land Fund)	100.00	
A Norgrove (Land Fund)	25.00	
J W Robinson (Land Fund)	70.00	
Humphrey J Terry (Land Fund)	50.00	
C J Docwra (Land & Restoration)	50.00	50.00
Rev A J G Cooper (Land Fund)	50.00	
J L Norton (Land Fund)	100.00	
Dr P F Godfrey (Land Fund pledge)	50.00	
David Stanistreet (Land Fund)	90.00	
IWA Chiltern Branch(Suchet additional)	40.00	
Dr G T Whitfield (additional)	250.00	
Charitycard Internet Payment (anon)		100.00
Dr I M Thompson (Restoration)		50.00
R T Willis (Restoration)		28.09
Aggregated donations up to £20 each	219.00	65.00

Trust & Marketing donations

Ashby Canal Society (Eric Wood talk)	25.00
Mr C G Watmore	100.00
Hammerwich Environment Group (talk)	30.00
Boat Museum Soc, Ellesmere Port (talk)	35.00
Ms J E Davies (with sub.)	25.00
H Wootton (with sub.)	45.00
IWA Notts & Derbys Branch (talk)	50.00
Shenstone Library (talk)	25.00
Brian Kingshott (returned expenses)	394.32
Philip G Sharpe (returned expenses)	28.13
Aggregated donations up to £20 each	310.00

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS BOOK

Our booklet "LICHFIELD CANAL – A BRIEF OVER-VIEW" is now out of stock after three editions. It replaced an earlier book, "Restoring the Lichfield Canal" written for the Trust by Duncan Moore in 1992, itself replacing an original production entitled "Restoring the Northern Link" in 1990. We seem to have gone full circle in realising the need for a new book which provides an up-to date description of the two canals as a joint restoration scheme.

And up-to-date it will be, as we are harnessing modern technology to produce a dynamic, loose-bound volume that will be updated from time to time and produced to meet ongoing demands. Pictures are in colour. Maps show the latest situation. These and the text will in future be edited as major changes occur to stay up-to-date.

The new, 30-page book will make its debut on our stand at the "Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show" at the N.E.C. in February, priced £4.95. Order your copy now by phoning Sue Williams on 01543 671427, or e-mail to info@lhct.org.uk.



Mayor & Mayoress of Sandwell with Martin O'keefe Chairman of BCNS
at the marketing stand at BCNS Annual Bonfire Rally.

Held at Galton Valley, Smethwick
(Photo by Mike Cookley of BCNS)

ECOLOGY MATTERS 5

More Good News

My invitations for volunteers to join a 'Green Team' published in the last three issues of Cut Both Ways have resulted in a good response. In December eight Trust members met to introduce themselves and agreed to set up a Green Agenda. A further four are set to join us soon. The moral here is to cast seed wide and be patient – some will take root.

We envisaged nothing too formal, just a group of members interested in plant and wildlife regeneration along the canal routes.

To avoid clashing with other working parties we suggested setting aside the second Sunday in each month for routine tasks such as, planting, grass cutting, weed control and scrub bashing. However as some of us are retired (work not being permitted to interfere with canal restoration) and provided access to our sites can be organised, team members can complete some jobs on weekdays.

This is better suited to our work as nature rarely follows a convenient monthly timetable (We all know what it is like trying to cut long grass on a wet Sunday afternoon!).

We hope to produce seasonal agendas and work plans to gradually replant and recover some of the original canal side environment: So much was lost when the Canals were abandoned and vandalised.

Any new volunteers will be warmly welcomed; there is no lack of work to be done. Please contact me on 01543 300090

Mike Battisson Environmental Officer.

New Members to December 2003

Mr D Stevens	Chasetown	Mr F J Blundred	Newcastle on Tyne
Mr J S Wilson	Burntwood	Mrs M Furneaux	Lichfield
Dr M Bridge	Littleborough	Mr & Mrs R Howse	Southampton
Mr S P Randall	Cannock	Mrs A E Kearney	Pershore
Ms L L Birch	Hendon	Mr & Mrs J Taylor	Muckley Corner
Mr J Martin	Llanymynech	Mr & Mrs J Ball	Shenstone
Mrs D Sowerby	Mapperley	Sir John Smith Ch, CBE	Maidenhead
Dr David Fletcher CBE & Mrs Mary Fletcher		Berkhamstead	

FINANCE REPORT

Whilst we have sought to make the accounts on the following pages easy to read, it may help to have some points explained. Our annual Income and Expenditure have exceeded £1m for the first time, due to the cost of completing the Lichfield Canal Aqueduct before the M6 Toll opened. This brought approval for increasing the previous European Regional Development Fund [ERDF] grant to £779,580, most of which had to be defrayed in the year.

Balance Sheet assets now include land purchased at Norton Hall Farm from the ERDF grant as part of the proposed new diversionary route for the Hatherton Canal. Other land dealings explained by Mike Smith elsewhere in this issue are either still in course or form part of the Lichfield Canal, Cappers Lane Bridge project which falls into the ownership of Staffordshire County Council. Within that SCC contract, part of the ERDF grant allocated for Hatherton Canal "construction" is being used to acquire a quantity of pre-cast concrete culvert segments. These will be held temporarily by the Trust until SCC use them in the future to install under roads crossing the route.

Despite insistence by Government Office for the West Midlands that eligible expenditure qualifying for ERDF claims in 2003 had to be fully defrayed, they have nevertheless invoked a clause by which 10% of the grant payment is retained pending project completion and satisfactory audit – perhaps in a year or two! Under our Agreement with British Waterways to manage the ERDF Hatherton Canal Studies and Reports project, we are liable for funding part of the outstanding cost by alternate means in the short term. Additionally, Cappers Bridge costs indicate a funding shortfall of up to £50,000, depending on contract details, Both of these need to be met in the Spring of 2004.

In the notes to the accounts, we are grateful to Sir John Smith for confirming that the balance from the Manifold Trust grant of £250,000 remains available. Also, the Trust has obtained approval for VAT Registration with some retrospection which will enable us to reclaim a net amount of VAT after professional fees and adjustment to the ERDF grant which was approved on a VAT-paid basis. Introduction of VAT will affect some transactions from now on.

Total subscription income is up by 17% and the Marketing Team have again contributed over £11,000 (net) by representing the Trust to the public at every realistic opportunity. Website transactions have increased as more people become accustomed to this modern communication channel. Competing pressures meant that not so much could be spent on restoration work, but the effort at Tamworth Road was no less for that. I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who made it possible to achieve so much in just a year.

Bob Williams, Finance Director

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 14th Annual General Meeting of
The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd. will be held at
Whittington Village Hall,
off Main Street, Whittington, near Lichfield, Staffordshire
on **Saturday 17th April 2004 at 2 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting 26/4/03
3. Matters Arising
4. Directors' Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31st
December 2003
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Directors:
 - (a) Directors retiring by rotation and standing for re-election:
Brian Kingshott
Stephen Pitt
 - (b) Directors co-opted during the year and nominated by Council for election:
Mike Battisson
Michael Brown
Peter Magee
 - (c) Any other nominations received
8. Appointment of Auditor: West - Chartered Accountants
9. Consideration of a Resolution proposed by Council that:
The annual subscription rate for Concessionary Membership (available to Junior, Student, Retired, or Unemployed members) is raised to £6 from 1st May 2004 for new members and from the next renewal date for existing members
10. 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 Acting Company Secretary (Bob Williams), to whom they should be returned at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

Note 2: A summary of the 2000 Annual Accounts, subject to audit, is included in this magazine. Any member wanting a copy of the full accounts in advance of the meeting should contact the Treasurer, Bob Williams.

Note 3: Non-members are welcome to attend but can not vote at the AGM.

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

DRAFT BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2003

	31-Dec-2003		31-Dec-2002	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Freehold Land at cost	48,486		12,736	
Improvements to canal land at Darnford (depreciated)	2,018		3,027	
Investment in subsidiary trading company shares	<u>2</u>		<u>2</u>	
Total Fixed Assets		50,506		15,765
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors:				
Subsidiary company: residual net profit due	2,335		3,162	
loan capital due			200	
G.O.W.M., ERDF grant 10% retention	<u>35,981</u>	38,316		3,362
Bank balances:				
<i>Restricted funds:-</i>				
David Suchet Appeal Fund			84,000	
Paddle Gear Fund			840	
Grants for Lichfield Canal aqueduct			6,000	
Land Fund donations, net of expenditure	2,118		2,970	
Restoration Fund donations	243			
Brick Appeal funds, net of expenditure	1,358		1,051	
Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust grant for property fees	1,000		1,000	
ERDF grant reserve	50,000			
<i>Designated funds:-</i>				
Land Fund, allocated from Trust funds			7,500	
Fosseway land contribution to L.D.C.			5,000	
Restoration budget	4,764		6,538	
<i>Unrestricted funds:-</i>				
Trust funds for general use	<u>517</u>		<u>11,101</u>	
Total funds in Deposit a/cs		60,000		126,000
Trust current a/cs	685		1,868	
Marketing current a/c	<u>146</u>		<u>458</u>	
Total funds in Current a/cs		831		2,326
Total assets before current liabilities		149,653		147,453
LIABILITIES				
ERDF project payment to British Waterways		(70,000)		
TOTAL NET RESOURCES		£ 79,653		£ 147,453
RESERVES:				
Income & Expenditure Account		£ 79,653		£ 147,453
NOTES:				
Outstanding grant offer by The Manifold Trust		£ 41,000		
VAT Registration estimated net recovery of tax		£ 30,000		

This page and the following page are based on the Trust's accounts for 2003 which are subject to formal audit and presentation to the Annual General Meeting. Any member requiring a full set of the audited final accounts can obtain one free of charge on application to the Finance Director.

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED
DRAFT INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
For the year ended 31st December 2003

	2003		2002	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions from members (excl. Marketing below)		10,242		8,692
Donations:				
David Suchet Appeal (+ interest + GA tax - costs)	64,768		104,265	
Land Fund	1,648		360	
Restoration Fund	243			
Received with subscriptions	2,793		3,135	
Other (excl. Marketing collections - below)	4,124	73,576	2,297	110,057
Income generated by Marketing and Retail Trading:				
Trust & Public events	2,084		3,010	
Membership subscriptions collected at shows, etc.	1,453		1,326	
Brick Appeal	1,380		2,474	
Grand Prize Draw	2,005		1,796	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements, Interest	3,397		3,167	
Profits from subsidiary trading company	4,835		3,162	
	15,154		14,935	
less Social Events proceeds to Suchet Appeal above	(1,446)	13,708	(1,368)	13,567
Grants (excl. those to Suchet Appeal above):				
The Manifold Trust	194,000			
Others	35,550		13,108	
European Regional Development Fund	737,603	967,153		13,108
Tax, interest, etc.:				
Gift Aid tax reclaim (excl. Suchet Appeal above)	3,744		4,394	
Bank interest	2,208		103	
Subsidiary company loan interest	20		41	
Wayleave for electricity line poles at Darnford	9	5,981	9	4,547
TOTAL INCOME		1,070,660		149,971
EXPENDITURE				
Restoration costs				
Lichfield Canal; Darnford and Fosseyway	84		286	
Tamworth Road, Locks 25 & 26	2,383		6,551	
Accommodation (wrg group visits)			898	
Tools, Plant and Machinery	2,103	(4,570)	444	(8,179)
Operational costs				
Professional fees and costs	6,970		2,536	
Membership and magazine administration	4,074		2,991	
Direct cost of Marketing activity	4,130		3,564	
Direct cost of Suchet Appeal (2001 reimbursement in 2002)	27		(840)	
Funding promotion	1,404			
General administration	2,690		2,829	
Insurance premium (IWA policy)	524		388	
Membership subscriptions (IWA, LDIA, PWG)	150		111	
Hire of hall for A.G.M.	26	(19,995)	20	(11,599)
Project costs				
Hatherton Canal; ERDF grant expenditure (excl. land)	191,250		130,000	
Lichfield Canal; M6 Toll Aqueduct	396,055			
Lichfield Canal; Cappers Bridge land & SCC contract	525,581	(1,112,886)		(130,000)
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS ON TRUST ACTIVITIES		(66,791)		193
Depreciation of canal improvements at Darnford		(1,009)		(1,009)
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(67,800)		(816)
Retained Surplus brought forward		147,453		148,269
Retained Surplus carried forward		£ 79,653		£ 147,453

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

MARKETING REPORT

GRAND PRIZE DRAW 2003

Congratulations to all the lucky winners in our Grand Prize Draw 2003. Martin O'Keefe, chairman of the Birmingham Canal Navigations Society, pulled out the winning tickets at their Bonfire Rally, which was held at Galton Valley, Smethwick on 1st November 2003.

This year's draw raised £2146.00 for the Trust funds.

See list of winners on page 20

BOAT BOTTOM BLACKING DRAW 2003

Kindly donated by Ray Bower of Streethay Wharf Lichfield and drawn by the Mayor of Sandwell. at the BCNS Bonfire Rally. The lucky winner from 83 entries was Mr Hacker of Peterborough. Total raised £415.00.

BARN DANCE

Held at the Spencer Hall, Whittington on Sat 22nd November 2003

We had a most enjoyable and profitable evening, dancing to the Band Mother's Ruin. Bob. Mullarkey our resident site carpenter known to all as Bob the Builder sold 22 tickets: great effort Bob!

Thank you to Pat Barton and Terry Robertson for working so hard to provide a superb hot supper. Thanks to Bob & Sue Williams and other members who helped to run the bar and serve the supper.

We made an amazing net profit of £810.41. Sadly for us, Pat Barton is leaving the Marketing Group due to family commitments. I am sure her dedication to the group will be missed. Once again thank you Pat.

BROWNHILLS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

At Brownhills Activity Centre on Sunday 30th November

Thank you to May Brown, Trish Humphries & Barry Kenn for manning the stall.

Total raised £121.33.



MARKETING REPORT (continued)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2004

OwnerShips Show, Braunston Marina Sat 7th - Sun 8th Feb.

National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show, **NEC** Sat 14th – Sun 22nd Feb.

MARCH

Quiz Night with hot supper at THE BOAT INN, Muckley Corner, Thur. 18th March.

APRIL

Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy, Easter week end. at the home of Eric & Doreen Wood, Whittington Wharf. Fri. 9th – Sun 11th April. BBQ Saturday Evening. Easter Bonnet Parade on Sunday (**Come by Boat**)!

A.G.M. Saturday 17th April 2004 at Whittington Village Hall 2pm.

I would be very pleased to hear from any members who would like to join the Marketing Group, if only to give us some new ideas. We meet at the Lichfield University Campus usually on the second Monday of the month 7.15pm. to 9.00pm.

We are also in desperate need of people to help at the summer shows. This important work can be very rewarding, also we do need to maintain a high profile for the Trust.

E-mail me, **Mike.Brown@lhcr.org.uk** or Phone (01543) 302908.

Mike Brown Marketing Chairman.

Brick Appeal donations up to 31st December

J A Oliver	£20.00
Colin & June Hannaford-Day	£100.00
Tim & Jacqui Holfold	£20.00
R T D A Haveron	£40.00
Mr & Mrs R Chester-Browne	£20.00
J N Potts	£100.00
M J Davies	£20.00
S B Wheat	£20.00

PRIZE SURPRISE!

Congratulations to all the following lucky winners in our Grand Prize Draw 2003, kindly drawn under public scrutiny by Martin O'Keefe, Chairman of Birmingham Canal Navigations Society at their annual "Bonfire" event at Galton Valley on 1st November. We commiserate with all those holding the other 8,009 tickets left in the bag! With the many donations that were added on, the Draw brought a valuable net gain of £2,146 to the Trust's funds. The winners were:-

1. A week-end on a 4/6-berth narrowboat from Teddesley Boat Co, Penkridge
No.001335 Mr T Gisbourne, Sharesill, Wolverhampton.
2. £100.00 in cash
No.004224 Mrs C Johnson, Castle Gresley, Derbyshire.
3. Large framed canal print from Waterway Pictures
No.005585 Mr J N Potts, Hammerwich, Staffordshire.
4. 12 months magazine subscription from Waterways World
No.006552 S.Wittich, Wokingham, Berkshire.
5. Choice of video from Laurence Hogg Productions
No.005814 Mrs S Moses, Rugby, Warwickshire.
6. Limited edition L & H historic "Darnford Nut" paperweight
No.008687 Mr D Eastman, Ticknall, Derbyshire.
7. Membership subscription for a year to L & H Trust
No.005704 Mr C L Pattison, Lichfield, Staffordshire.
8. £5 National Trust voucher from Mr D Wheeler
No.003847 Miss A Hallows, Wolverhampton.
9. Selection of L & H promotional products
No.001905 Mr Higgs, Harrow, Middlesex.

The "Bottom Blacking Competition" for 2003 was also drawn at the same event by the Mayor of Sandwell. The lucky winner from 83 entries was Mr Hacker of Peterborough whose boat will benefit from the treatment kindly donated by Ray Bowern at Streethay Wharf, Lichfield. This raised another £415 for the Trust.

Our thanks go to those who donated prizes, and to everyone who participated. The Prize Draw for 2004, following the popular trend for higher value tickets, will be launched at the National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show at the N.E.C., Birmingham, 14-22 February 2004. Come to see our latest display on Stand No.5536 near the "Waterways Village" in the centre of Hall 5.

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.

(advertisement)



Michael Fabricant MP

Member of Parliament for
the Constituency of
Lichfield.

if you live in the Lichfield Parliamentary constituency, and you require assistance and think your MP can help, you can either write to Michael Fabricant at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA; or you can email him by using the webform at

www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk/contact.html

or telephone his office at 01543 419650 where you can also make an appointment to see him at one of his regular surgeries.

(advertisement)

ABANDONMENT

2004 marks the 50th anniversary of the official abandonment of the Lichfield Canal in 1954, with the Hatherton Canal following in 1955. It is worth considering just what 'abandonment' actually means.

What we now refer to as the Lichfield Canal was but a part of the Wyrley & Essington Canal which was first authorised by an Act of Parliament in 1792, with its extension from Birchills at Walsall to Huddlesford Junction being authorised by a second Act in 1794. This second Act, and also an Act of 1840 which merged the Wyrley & Essington with the Birmingham Canal Navigations, were looked at in my articles "In The Beginning" in Cut Both Ways 18 & 20 (1999). Rights that have been created by Parliament can only be extinguished by Parliament, and the British Transport Commission Act of 1954 abolished both the rights of navigation and any obligation by the owners to maintain the navigation or the water supply.

Clause 14(2) states: As from the passing of this Act -

(a) all rights of navigation along on or over the waterways and all rights of user by barges or other boats of the waterways shall cease and be extinguished; and
(b) the Commission shall cease to be under any obligation (whether statutory or otherwise) to keep the waterways open for navigation or to maintain the same in a navigable condition or to preserve the supplies of water thereto for the purposes of navigation or to supply the waterway with water for those purposes.

This relates to the Second Schedule which includes:

Wyrley & Essington Canal:

The portion known as Ogley Locks from the junction of the Anglesey branch with the canal near Anglesey Bridge in the urban district of Brownhills to the termination of the canal at Huddlesford Junction in the rural district of Lichfield all in the county of Stafford.

It may be noted that the Act does not *prevent* maintenance or use of the navigation, only the obligation or rights to do so. Several canals which were officially abandoned in this way have in fact remained navigable, such as the Llangollen Canal, abandoned in 1944. Other parts of the Wyrley & Essington that were also abandoned in the 1954 Act, in law and in practice, included the Sneyd branch, Wyrley Bank branch, Hayhead branch, and the Lords Hayes branch (note the proper spelling, not Lord Hay's as nowadays usually misnamed). The Act also abandoned various other branches of the BCN and other waterways. (continued over)

Back Copies of Cut Both Ways available at £1.00 Each

Copies of issues 1 to 37 are available from the Editor

Stephen Pitt 11 Silkmore Lane, Stafford, ST17 4JN

Cheques made payable to LHCRT Ltd

ABANDONMENT (continued)

The Hatherton Branch Canal, which was opened in 1841, was one of only a few waterways not specifically authorised by an Act of Parliament; presumably being covered by the original Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Act of 1766 which permitted branches and by agreement with all the landowners, principally Lord Hatherton, obviating the need for compulsory purchase powers. Nevertheless, it was specifically abandoned by the British Transport Commission Act of 1955, which uses wording identical to that quoted above but under Clause 19(2) and in the Fourth Schedule. This also includes the Churchbridge Locks which had been authorised by the Birmingham Canal Navigations Act 1855.

Birmingham Canal:

The portion known as Churchbridge Locks from its commencement by a junction with the Cannock Extension Canal to its termination by a junction with the Hatherton Branch of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal west of the bridge carrying Watling Street over the said portion all in the urban district of Cannock in the county of Stafford.

Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal:

The Hatherton Branch from its commencement at Hatherton Junction in the rural district of Cannock to its termination in the urban district of Cannock by a junction with the portion of waterway last described all in the county of Stafford.

Again, the 1955 Act also abandoned several other BCN branches and other waterways. It is interesting to note an apparent anomaly however, in that it quotes the Authorising Act for the Hatherton Branch as being the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Act 1903 – some 62 years after it opened ! There may be scope for some more historical research here.

Phil Sharpe



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PRESS & PUBLICITY

Our press and publicity report this quarter covers October, November and December 2003. As anticipated, further interest in the completion of work on the Lichfield Canal aqueduct was prompted by the inauguration ceremony and its opportunity to travel on part of the unopened Motorway to photograph the structure close up. Central TV News on October 10th included a very good report on the event by Jonathan Ray with pictures of the aqueduct and of Dr David Fletcher unveiling the road sign, library pictures of David Suchet on the canal in Walsall, and interviews on site with our Chairman and Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant. Newsagents hoardings on the streets announcing "Lichfield Aqueduct Unveiled" heralded widespread press coverage on 16th October with "Aqueduct drops into place - canal fans' celebration" in the *Express & Star*, "Canal campaign joy as toll hurdle bridged" in the *Lichfield Mercury*, and "Celebration for new aqueduct" in the *Lichfield Post*, variously illustrated with David Fletcher, Brian Kingshott and John Horton standing in front of the aqueduct or the unveiled road sign.

IWA's *Waterways* for November reprised the installation of the trough sections with a dramatic picture by Harry Arnold, and WRG's *Navies* for Oct-Nov included a photo on the inside cover. IWA's West Midlands Region magazine *Navigation* also pictured the installation on its cover with the riddle "What weighs 80 tonnes, dangles in mid-air and is green ?", with further pictures inside including one of the towpath and handrail sections being bolted on and an article by our publicity officer Janette Horton. The December *Canal & Riverboat* also had a picture of the installation of the towpath sections and reported "L&H aqueduct is a great achievement". Also in December *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways* reported "Lichfield Aqueduct inaugurated" illustrated by the structure and the sign, and *Waterways World* under the same headline showed the dramatic moment as Dave Fletcher unveiled the "Lichfield Canal Aqueduct" road sign. The revamped news pages in the January edition of *Canal & Riverboat* carried an illustrated article on "Inauguration of aqueduct" which emphasised the historic nature of our achievement although it credited us with building 3 aqueducts instead of one and two culverts !

Well, enough of the aqueduct for now. What else was reported this quarter ? Publicity for our conservation awards (see CBW37) came in October with "Co-op funds canal gear" in the *Lichfield Post*, and the npower/Wildlife Trusts award prompted "Top conservation award for canal restoration project" in *The Post*, "Group's prize for helping wildlife" in the *Express & Star*, and "Canal conservation care rewarded" in *The Mercury*. The award and the quotes from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust that "Right from the start this project took on board the opportunities for wildlife as well as people" mark a significant step forward in establishing our green credentials.

(continued over)

PRESS & PUBLICITY (continued)

Canal Boat & Inland Waterways for January also pictured the award presentation under "Conservation award for Lichfield" whilst *Waterways World* similarly had "Conservation award for Trust". The January *Canal & Riverboat* said "Lichfield group win conservation award" and also pictured 'on the side' the presentation of the West Midlands Co-op award.

Lichfield District Council's decision to grant permission for building on part of the original canal line at Shortbutts Lane (see CBW37) prompted a critical letter in the *Lichfield Mercury* pointing out that a restored canal would be far more valuable than a few more houses here. (Fortunately, there is a way round for the canal). The Trust's social programme prompted "Barn dance for canal" and "Stepping out for another fundraiser" in *The Mercury* and *The Post* respectively in October, and the news that "David and Sheila Suchet appointed IWA vice presidents" was illustrated in *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways* for November by their earlier visit to the Lichfield Canal Aqueduct (we can't get away from it !). In its "What's On" section *The Rugeley & Cannock Mercury* gave details of our Hatherton Canal work party in December, also accompanied by a picture of the aqueduct ceremony.

The January edition of *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways* had some amusing predictions for 2004 under 'Old Josher's Canalsmanac', including LHCRT building several more aqueducts, charging motorists for driving under them, and the Trustees emigrating to the Bahamas ! So here's looking forward to warmer climes !

Phil Sharpe



Barn dance & supper gets under way (photo May Brown)

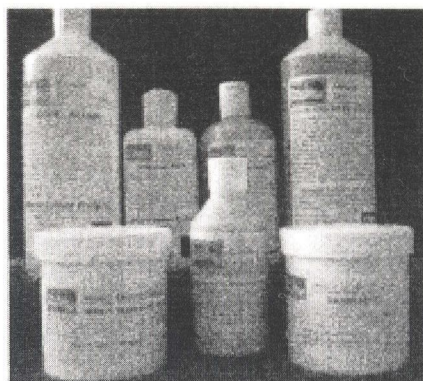
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Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust



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A461 WALSALL ROAD**

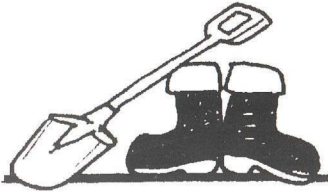
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All funds raised go towards the RESTORATION FUND



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

Following our return to Lock 25 at Tamworth Road, yet more materials were recovered from the Lock 26 site and transported round to the container area. Good progress has been made on the offside wall by re-excavating the bottom gate thrust-block area with our JCB and by hand, as well as further sections behind the top gate recess and rubbing stones and ladder. A start has been made installing the reinforcing, blockwork and shuttering.

At Fosseway Lane site some clearance work has been done at the head of Lock 18 and the hedge-laying is progressing well. Various trees and shrubs have been transplanted to reinforce the gaps.

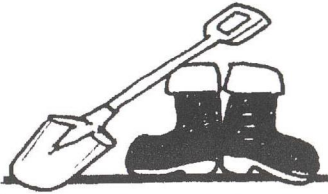
Arrangements for a WRG Canal Camp are now in place for August 14th to 21st. We expect to have 15 to 20 campers and the JCB803 "Blue" to help excavate and consolidate the offside pound wall from Lock 25 to the tail of Lock 24, as well as excavation and levelling on the towpath side of 25. A detailed plan for all the work needed in 2004 has been prepared, but the rate of progress will depend both on maintaining a good turn-out on our own work parties and help from the WRG Camp and several weekend visits.

To find our regular work site at Lock 25 on Tamworth Road (Grid ref. SK 130 083) take the A51 out of Lichfield and the site is on the right about 300 metres after Cricket Lane.

Our regular monthly work parties on the first Sunday are supplemented by an intermediate Saturday, all from 10 am. We will also be meeting again on most Wednesday evenings in May and June. In addition there will be several weekend visits by WRG regional and associated groups, as below. For more information contact Peter Matthews on 01543-318933 or Phil Sharpe on 01889 583330, or visit our web site where any additional dates will be shown.

Work Party Dates:

February:	Sunday 1, Saturday 14.
March:	Sunday 7, Newbury WPG Sat/Sun 13/14, Saturday 20.
April:	WRG Northwest Sat/Sun 3/4, Sunday 4, Saturday 17.
May:	Sunday 2, Saturday 15.
June:	London WRG Sat/Sun 5/6, Sunday 6, Saturday 19.



HATHERTON CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

The recruitment of Alan Stephens to our ranks as a qualified chain saw operator and instructor has enabled us to catch up with some tree clearance that was threatening to overwhelm the channel behind the Roman Way and down to Meadow Lock. Several well-attended work parties between October and December removed and burnt invasive willows and scrub from the bed and cut back the trees growing out of the lock chamber walls. Future meets will continue the good work and should also be helping the hedgerow contractors.

Our regular date is the third Sunday of each month, from 10 am, with some occasional extra days as required. Contact Denis Cooper on 01543-374370 (work) or Phil Sharpe on 01889 583330 for more details.

Work Party Dates: Sunday 15 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June.



No smoke without fire. The work party get to grips with some serious tree felling behind the Roman Way, Hatherton
(Photo by 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 Ogley Junction to Huddlesford Junction (the "Lichfield Canal"), and the Hatherton Branch of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, and also the construction of a navigable link between the Hatherton Branch and the Cannock Extension Canal.

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PATRONS Chris Coburn, Dr David Fletcher CBE, Sir John Smith CH CBE

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