

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

Issue 40 Summer 2004



'Cut Both Ways' 2nd prize winner at the Lichfield Green Hill Bower
(Photo by Bob Williams)

**Barn Dance Saturday 6th November
Whittington Village Hall.**

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

One of the Chairman's roles is to represent the Trust at meetings and functions. It is always a pleasure to do this and to meet a wide range of people. Those I talk to seem to fall into two very distinct categories. There are those who know all about our work, are enthusiastic to see us succeed and may well be members. Then there is the great majority who, amazingly, have never heard of us. This great division reminds me of advice I was once given when given the task of promoting and advertising an organisation. I was told always to assume that nobody had ever heard of you. Advice I suspect stems from the 14th Army, known as the "forgotten army" which fought in Burma in the Second World War. General Slim told them that not only were they forgotten but that nobody had even heard of them. As many will know, this was good advice. I live in Shropshire and many of my neighbours cannot find Lichfield on the map let alone any canals, open or under restoration.

We must remain fresh and enthusiastic about the Trust and be as keen to seek support now as we were when we started or when the problems of the M6 Toll seemed insuperable. Meanwhile, it is sometimes reassuring to be among good friends. I was recently invited to be a guest of Brownhills Waterside Carnival. This involved very few duties apart from presenting prizes to children who had done well in the art competition. It reminded me of my old day job and running prize day. However, the main pleasure was being greeted by so many people who are supporters of the Trust and who can see what a rejuvenated northern BCN will do for Brownhills. I was introduced to local councillors who urged us to look for help from Walsall MBC and who clearly want to be better informed on our project. I met Richard Shepherd who is the MP and he too was very encouraging. It was a very happy day and one to give all of us a lift.

I based myself at our sales caravan which is proving such a useful asset. Mike Brown and his team were busy all day. We were well placed, just by the trip-boat queue, and business was brisk. We hope to use the trailer more at the many events we attend. We owe much to our marketing team whose members give up so many weekends to visiting events both great and small all across the Midlands. This is a load which falls on a small number of our members and I know Mike Brown would welcome help from more members. Please get in touch if you can spare a little time. I know people are often put off from volunteering for this fearing they could not answer the questions the public ask. This is never a problem – there is always someone else nearby to support you. (continued over)

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.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

In our last issue I also appealed for volunteers. So often such appeals fall on stony ground but I was delighted when several members got in touch and offered their services. It is reassuring that someone is actually reading what I write but, much more significantly, we still have a considerable pool of untapped talent which we must continue to bring forward. L&H is a very broad church and there is a niche for anyone who wants to help. The request for help remains live - we need all the help we can get.

Meanwhile, the annual National Waterways Festival, run by the Inland Waterways Association, will be held this year at Burton on Trent, over the August Bank Holiday weekend. One of the aims of the event is to focus attention on local restoration schemes with L&H prominent among these. We are already towards the top of the league of restoration organisations where membership is concerned. We now have some 1500 members and this number continues to grow even though we are not hitting the headlines as we were a year or so ago. We need to grow this number to increase our income and our lobbying power. The big event at Burton will be a great venue for our sales team to do just this. Come and help!

Closer to home, the Trust is involved in an event planned for Huddlesford Junction in early October. Celebrating C18 Lichfield is a four day event which will focus on all aspects of Lichfield in the 18th Century. Our canal reached the city in 1797 and we are delighted to be involved in this. Working with several other organisations, including Lichfield Cruising Club, there are plans to up-grade the finger-post at the junction and add an arm which will point towards Lichfield. All such events serve to underline the work of the Trust and to establish a public perception that full restoration is now inevitable.

Finally, may I again address the question which I am asked most frequently. Everyone wants to know when our canals will be open. When we started in 1987 we set ourselves, in our enthusiastic naiveté, 20 years. 17 years on we clearly must revise this target. Restoration is a lengthy process. It moves at an uneven pace, dependent as it is, on volunteers and money raised from a wide variety of sources. It has to seize opportunities when they present themselves rather than proceed to a planned and regulated programme. After years of slow progress, and some dramatic achievements, the Trust is now well-placed to set out its stall for full restoration. As we re-focus on the next 20 years I am increasingly confident that this will be more than enough time to finish the task. With your help and enthusiasm we will get it all done much sooner.

Brian Kingshott

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

SECRETARY

Following our AGM, the next Council meeting in May as usual re-elected the principle officers and confirmed the roles of all our other directors and officers. One change though is the election of Sue Williams as Company Secretary, taking this over from Bob Williams who had been 'Acting' Company Secretary for some time. Whilst not usually an onerous role, we are currently working on some minor amendments to our Memorandum & Articles which is a painstaking process and we are grateful for Sue's help at this time. Sue of course remains in charge of our web site and Chris Pattison remains as our Minutes Secretary.

WHERE ARE YOU ALL ?

This question is prompted by the realisation that our swapping jobs amongst directors only emphasises how few we are and how much more we could do with some additional assistance. Of course, pleas for help are nothing new but I do not apologise for once again emphasising where we are most short at present. We have had an encouraging response to the Chairman's plea to Come And Join Us in CBW39, with offers to help with land, with marketing and with some engineering activities, but we still need help particularly with the following:

- Fund-raising, including approaching grant-giving trusts, charities and companies;
- Surveying, design work and project planning for engineering contracts;
- Liaison with utility companies;
- Local working parties.

As a voluntary organisation we are totally dependant on people freely giving up their time and making available their talents to help achieve our goals. A few of our directors are retired and in effect work almost full time for the Trust, without which we would be struggling. But the number of active members never seems to rise in proportion to total membership and we have only a few more active members now, with a membership of nearly 1500 and rising, than when membership was only a few hundred. Where are you all ? Of course, we appreciate that 'armchair' members contribute valuable funding and support, and that most of our members have competing pressures of work or family or other interests; but jobs can be subdivided and even a little time, regularly given, can make a big difference. Please don't feel guilty if you can't help, but do feel inspired if you can !

(continued over)

Membership rates are:

**Adult £10; Family £15; Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £6;
Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Corporate £200; Life Membership £200**

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

WATERWAYS 2025

Just in time for our press date, British Waterways have published their long-anticipated vision report for future restoration and new waterway projects, titled "Waterways 2025 – Our Vision For The Shape Of The Waterway Network". Whilst expressing support for all the currently more than 100 restoration and development projects, it concentrates on 18 priority schemes that will contribute most to enhancing BW's network and which could be completed by 2025. These projects on which BW will focus its support are categorised as Priority One, similar to the previously announced 'Tranche 2' schemes, and Priority Two which includes the Lichfield Canal. The full list is: -

Priority One: Ashby Canal (to Measham), Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway, Bow Back Rivers, Cotswold Canals (Phase One), Droitwich Canals, Fens Waterway Link, Liverpool Canal, Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal, Montgomery Canal, Northern Reaches Lancaster Canal, River Carron Navigation. These 11 projects include the 9 'Tranche 2' schemes announced in Unlocked & Unlimited in 2002, except for Foxton Inclined Plane which is now regarded as a heritage/ development project rather than a restoration, and with the addition of the Ashby, Fens Link and Carron.

(continued over)



Radiant & Regulus loaded with 7,600 bricks (see page 28)

(Photo by Brenda Ward)

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

Priority Two. Ashby Canal (to Moira), Cotswold Canals (Phase 2), Grantham Canal, Lichfield Canal, Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, River Leven, St. Helens (Sankey) Canal, Wendover Arm, Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal. The first two of these are continuations but the other 7 projects are for the first time now publicly identified as priorities for BW support.

In addition there are 3 Priority Three schemes identified; Slough-Windsor Link, Higher Avon Extension, and Wey & Arun Canal, where completion within the time-frame is much more uncertain. However, the report acknowledges that circumstances can change, for better or worse, over 20 years and BW will keep its strategic vision under regular review. Currently the B&MK scheme is proving difficult although it remains a priority.

The report explains the assessment process and the criteria used. These are Need (- economic, social, market, local support), Sustainability (- financial, environment & heritage, technical feasibility) and Network ('pressure valve', network extension). The Lichfield Canal scores High on economic benefits to the northern BCN, on market opportunities, on local support, and on network extension. It rates Medium for social benefits, for environment & heritage benefits, and for technical feasibility – highlighting the completion of the aqueduct but the need to resolve other road crossings, fragmented land ownership and water supply. Only on funding uncertainty does it rate Low; but the overall assessment is clearly positive and compares well with the other scheme assessments.

Nor is the Hatherton Canal ignored; the summary says "Restoration of the Lichfield Canal between the Coventry Canal and the under-used northern Birmingham Canal Navigations. This will form the first stage of creating a new canal network in the region through providing a further link to the Staffs & Worcs Canal by restoring the Hatherton Canal."

This official recognition for the feasibility and importance of our twin projects is most welcome and we look forward to working more closely in partnership with BW in future to help achieve their 2025 vision. The full document can be viewed on the new BW website www.britishwaterway.co.uk/waterways2025 and printed copies will presumably also be available.

DONATIONS

Bob will have listed all the larger donations this quarter on another page, but I would just like to emphasise how grateful we are to everyone who has helped, including the Regular Giving Scheme contributors and Hatherton Parish Council, Southampton Canal Society, Stafford Boat Club and Lichfield City Council.

Phil Sharpe

WALKING THE LINE

An Item from your Land Officer:

"Hey, its a nice sunny day! Why don't we go and walk the line of that canal that the L&H are restoring? It goes through some lovely countryside and we could take the kids and the dog and a picnic – wouldn't that be a great day out?"

If this excellent idea occurs to you and you set off to explore some of the more remote parts of the line of the Lichfield or the Hatherton Canal you could perhaps be making my job more difficult. Landowners get very touchy if people wander across their property without permission and the good relations we try so hard to build up are very easily destroyed by enthusiastic exploration by our supporters. So here is some information about walkable lengths and our hopes for extending them.

Where can one walk at the moment? The Hatherton Canal towpath is walkable, thanks to the sterling efforts of our Hatherton Working Parties over many years, from the back of the Roman Way Hotel to the M6 (the Western access is at the Oak Lane bridge). On the Lichfield Canal there are four suitable areas. From Darnford Lane the public may walk through Trust land to the Lift Bridge and some 100 metres beyond. There is NOT a through route to Cappers Lane and walkers must not go past the notice board as this is a particularly sensitive area. Similarly sensitive, the length of in-water channel between Cappers Lane and Huddlesford Junction is leased to, and is the private mooring area of, the Lichfield Cruising Club. The Club has been co-operative in the past and has on occasion allowed organised walks along their towpath. I am glad to say our relations with the Club are improving steadily but we must not jeopardise this by intruding onto their land without invitation.

(continued over)



Sales Stand at Ashby Canal Festival
(Photo by Pete Magee)

WALKING THE LINE (continued)

The Lichfield City Council owns the line of the canal from Lock 25 beside the Tamworth Road all the way through the London Road Bridge and past Wordsworth Close to Shortbutts Lane and this is a very pleasant grassed length to walk. There is also a well used but unofficial path running from the Chesterfield Road (starting beside the former Sandfields pumping station) along the former line of the canal to Fosseway Lane. Darnford Park lies between Boley Park and the A38 and stretches from the A51 Tamworth Road flyover to Cappers Lane. This is Public Open Space owned by the Lichfield District Council and it is possible to walk over the planned route of the Lichfield Canal from the A51 flyover down the hill to the point in the bottom of the valley where the canal will pass under the A38.

I hope the above will be useful to newer members and those living outside this area. Local members and older hands will be familiar with these routes - particularly those who participated in the Lichfield Canal Walk in 2002 when we were able, by agreement with landowners, to include some additional areas and provide a wonderful day out.

We are now working to make more footpath lengths available. One of the conditions of our ERDF grant is that we must achieve a variety of specified 'outputs', or tangible benefits, as a result of their funding. In one category we need to provide lengths of new footpath - in the longer term these will of course be our towpaths. However, there is pressure on us to demonstrate that we are starting to produce 'outputs' soon. We therefore hope to arrange with certain landowners that we can, as a short term measure, organise walks over, or close to, the intended line of the towpaths. These footpaths will not initially be open on a permanent basis but, if we can obtain the landowner's permission, we will organise a series of walks. However, we will be looking for support from our members to join these events so that we can record evidence for the ERDF authorities that we are making progress towards the achievements of the required 'outputs'. We will keep you informed though CBW - in the meantime - enjoy your walking!

Mike Smith



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DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

Amounts over £20 from 3 April to 30 June 2004

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Land Fund	Restoration Fund
Alrewas Women's Institute (talk)	30.00		
Allan & Lynda Gilbert	50.00		
Rotary Club of Tipton (talk)	50.00		
Hatherton Parish Council	100.00		
Mrs S A Moreton	25.00		
Southampton Canal Society	100.00		
Flamsteed Mark Lodge	25.00		
in memory of Alan John Page, dec'd.			
Barry Parkes	35.00		
Dr J R Massy	50.00		
Eric Wood; sale of goods	70.00		
Dr T Hollingworth	62.00		
Stafford Boat Club (collection)	162.67		
Dr E Pringle (with sub.)	35.00		
R J Buckler (with sub.)	30.00		
J W Farren (with sub.)	50.00		
R J Fenton (with sub)	25.00		
N.H.S. Retirement Fellowship,			
Burton-on-Trent (talk)	25.00		
G Edgson, Norton Canes Boatbuilders	30.00		
K A Twyman	23.05		
Dr I M Thompson	40.00		
Mr & Mrs J J Faulkner	100.00		
Pamela L Thomas	30.00		
F Kelley (with sub.)	25.00		
Cheslyn Hay Local History Soc'y (talk)	50.00		
R W Lloyd-Hart (with sub.)	24.00		
J Lamming (with sub.)	35.00		
Friends of the Wharf, Brownhills	28.00		
Sales of donated wood	50.00		
Brian Kingshott (returned expenses)	460.11		
P R & Mrs A Swindale (with sub.)	55.00		
Aggregated donations up to £20 each	627.00		
Mrs Hannah Boone (pledge)		240.00	
Peter C Magee			350.00

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

FUNDING NEWS

Members will be aware that the Trust registered for VAT towards the end of 2003. However, we still await a decision from HM Customs & Excise as to the extent to which they are prepared to permit the Trust to reclaim VAT on expenditure. This is a high value item in our accounts where we hope to be able to recover many £'000 every year.

The Regular Giving Scheme, since its launch just before the start of this year, has generated an income of nearly £10,000 in cash and medium-term pledges. We thank those who have participated, and would welcome more by way of the donation form sent with CBW No.37.

The Grand Prize Draw is going well this year, thanks to the attraction of Alvechurch Boat Centres providing the generous first prize of a 4-day holiday worth £500. Ticket sales have already raised over £2,000 – and we still have to the 6th November before the draw is made. Many thanks to Members who have already returned their counterfoils from those issued with the last Cut Both Ways. Please keep them coming in to help with fund-raising, and give yourselves the chance to win one of the many valuable prizes.

Government Inspectors have paid us a visit to examine accounting and output records for the European Regional Development Fund grant, followed by a tour of the relevant sites to observe progress. Seeming well pleased with our achievements so far, a report will become available in the coming weeks which should help us as we move forward with the specific project work.

Lichfield City Council have again this year made another grant of £500 to assist the Trust with restoration work on the Tamworth Road section.

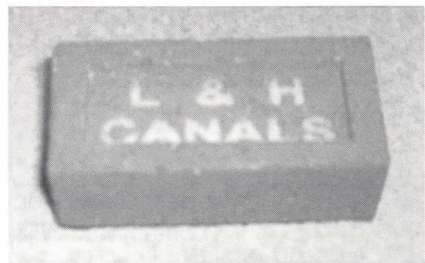
Bob Williams



THE BRICK APPEAL DONATIONS

From 3rd April to 1st July 2004

Mr B W White, Tamworth.	£20
Mr C J Martin, Llanymynech.	£20
Mr T Holford, Norton Canes.	£20
Mr D Stevenson, Leicester.	£20
Mr A R Wedge, Willenhall.	£40



CHAINSAW TRAINING

Congratulations to Dave Simkins, Peter Freakley and Peter Magee who have all taken and passed a LANTRA certificated course on Chainsaws; including health and safety, maintenance, cross cutting and felling small trees. This is one activity where no risks can be taken and all 3 are now fully trained and kitted out with safety clothing, so we can continue in the autumn with our hedgelaying and tree management programme.

Phil Sharpe



"The chain(saw) gang! Dave Simkins, Peter Freakley and Peter Magee relax after successful completion of the chainsaw training course"

(Photo by Dave Simkins)



The combined forces of London WRG & Essex WRG attack a tree stump in June
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

New members to July 2004

Mr R Puzey	Walsall
Mr A Fisher	Abingdon
Mr L Brown	Hendon, London
Mrs R W Jefford	Falmouth
Mrs B A Thompson	Calf Heath
Mrs E Attwood	Lichfield
Mrs Rouse	Desford, Leics.
Mr A R Kidd	Shrewsbury
Ms D Miles	Guildford
Mrs J W Male	Lichfield
Mr M W Wright	Hopwas
Ms C M Read	Tettenhall
Mr M Allen	Great Barr, Birmingham
Mrs P Brand	Kettering
Mr C J Postle	Wednesfield
Mr S Edkins	Northfield, Birmingham
Ms L Lymbery	Bedworth
Mr P Pagett	Hednesford
Mr M Hollender	Stockton on Tees
Mr I Bolton	Wolverhampton
Mrs S A Ryan	Lichfield
Mr J Evans	Shard End, Birmingham
Ms P Chaney	Orpington, Kent
Mr S Loeber	Witham, Essex
Mr A Blagbrough	Reigate



"Blue" continuing the excavation of the offside pond wall at Lock 25
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

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Bar available

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All funds raised go to the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

MARKETING REPORT

Past Events:

March

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy. Easter Week-End.

At the home of Eric & Doreen Wood, Whittington Wharf.

Once again a huge success. Our grateful thanks must go to Eric & Doreen for their generosity and untiring enthusiasm over the week-end, and to everyone who gave their valuable help to do all the hundred and one things that needed to be done.

Many thanks to Derek & Margaret Beardsmore for their coffee stall which was an added attraction and also for their donation to the trust. We are also grateful to Coates Butchers of Alrewas for their generous sponsorship in providing the beef burgers and sausages for the barbecue. The Saturday evening was rounded off with a hot pot supper and music provided by Chris Pattison and friends. Sunday morning proceedings started with breakfast for about forty followed by the judging of the Easter Bonnet Parade, the raffle and the cutting of the Easter cake. A staggering £1300.00 was raised over the week-end.

Raffle Prize unclaimed at Eric's Easter Coffee Morning: Pink Ticket No 937.

April

A.G.M. Whittington Village Hall. Saturday 17th April.

45 members were present. Thanks to the ladies who manned the sales stall and organised the refreshments. Total raised £100.00.

Following refreshments, a site visit was made to Lock 25 & 26 at Tamworth Road.

May

Chasewater Park Festival Monday 3rd May.

Debut for our mobile display unit. Not a terribly busy day but it demonstrated our interest in supporting the Chasewater Country Park. Our members attending this event were given a free steam train ride on the light railway. Total raised at this event £70.00.

Ashby Canal Festival held at Moira Furnace 15th-16th May.

Many thanks to Bob & Sue Williams for taking over from me at the last minute due to my illness. Also thanks to Trish Humphries, David & Mavis Moore, for all their help over the week-end and to Peter & Pat Magee for towing the SMART trailer (Sales Marketing And Retail Trading) to Moira and bringing it back on the Sunday. Total raised £252.71 gross.

Crick Boat Show Saturday 29th to Monday 31st May.

A good team and a lot of hard work. The team was led by Rob Davies, assisted by Brian Kingshott, Bob & Sue Williams, Trish Humphries, David & Mavis Moore. Total raised £1,122 gross.

(continued over)

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

Lichfield Green Hill Bower Monday 31st May.

Congratulations to Peter & Pat Magee, they were awarded 2nd Prize of £150 for their L&HCRT Narrow Boat 'Cut Both Ways' in the Bower Parade and a silver cup to keep for a year. Peter also donated the £25 expenses awarded by the Bower Committee. Due to their hard work and imagination £175 was raised for the Trust.

Meanwhile in Beacon Park the team were manning the SMART trailer along with two gazebos selling Bric-a-brac. Many thanks to Jan Horton, Trish Humphries, Anna & Phil Davies and Barry Kenn, for all their hard work. Total raised £302.02 gross.

June

BCNS Open week-end Titford Pump House Saturday 26th June.

Cold and wet on Saturday very poorly attended. Total for day £28.85.

Brownhills Canal Festival Sunday 27th June.

A much better day weather wise, and we were able to have the SMART trailer on site. There was much local interest about the M6 Toll crossing at Churchbridge, the new route to Grove Basin and the Aqueduct at Brownhills. Total raised £109.10 including a donation of £28.00 from the Friends of The Wharf.

Many thanks to Barry Kenn, Trish Humphries, Trevor Morris and Keith Grice.

Historic Boat Gathering Braunston Marina Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th June.

Weather not good on Saturday but nice and sunny on Sunday. Bob & Sue Williams ably manned the stall. Draw Tickets sold £93. Total gross £347.

July

Saul Junction Saturday 3rd – Sunday 4th July.

Draw Tickets sold £100. 2 new members. Many thanks to Bob Williams and his team.

Forthcoming Events:

August

Forest of Mercia - Chasewater Park. Sunday 1st.

Tamworth Boat Club. Saturday 14th.

National Waterways Festival. Saturday 28th – Monday 30th.

November

Barn Dance Whittington village hall. Saturday 6th.

Grand Prize Draw to take place.

Mike Brown Marketing Chairman.



celebr18th

A weekend of

Invention, Dance, Entertainment And Song

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd October 2004
A three day festival to celebrate the lives and achievements of three of Lichfield's most famous eighteenth century sons.

**Erasmus Darwin,
David Garrick, Samuel Johnson**

CELEBR18TH promises a whirlwind weekend of shows and concerts, free events, stunning exhibitions and competitions to celebrate a time when Lichfield in Staffordshire was at the centre of everything new - the 18th century.

Throughout the first weekend of October 2004, the city will be a cauldron of Invention, Dance, Entertainment and Songs which recreate Lichfield's glorious achievements.

Premier events being planned include a unique and historic performance of Handel's Messiah in Lichfield Cathedral by one of the country's best known musical ensembles; a restoration comedy at the Garrick Theatre; a top name folk music concert and a festival of films set in the 18th century.

Alongside these will be numerous free events, designed to involve as many people as possible from the area. Stagecoach rides and balloon rides are planned around Lichfield and at Chasewater there will be steam engine driven carriages and traditional steam engines on display.

Other free events are expected to include a huge dancing class for shoppers in Lichfield precinct; spectacular sedan chair racing; kite flying; a cricket match; a celebration of the beginning of horse racing and maybe even a ploughing match nearby. Especially for schoolchildren, there will be an inventors competition and a writing competition, run through schools in the city.

Plans are now well advanced for a CANAL EVENT to take place on SATURDAY 2nd OCTOBER at Lichfield Cruising Club, Huddlesford Junction on the Coventry Canal, as part of the Celebr18th Weekend, jointly organised by LHCRT and the cruising club. Displays, stalls, refreshments and the cruising club bar will be available. Visiting boats very welcome. The main attraction will be an afternoon performance by Day-Star Theatre of their latest play "Taking a Chance", tickets £5.

For more information, boat entry forms and/or tickets contact Sue Williams, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Staffs WS7 0JP. Telephone: 01543 671427 or email: info@lhcr.org.uk

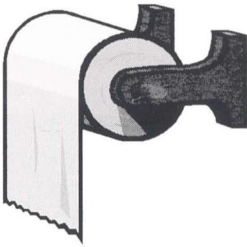
LOO-CRATIVE FUND RAISING



Can you help us take advantage of a very convenient opportunity to make hundreds of pounds for our Restoration Fund!

You probably know that the IWA National Festival this year will be held at Burton-on-Trent. The good news is that the Festival Committee will pay a **minimum £500** to any canal society who will look after the mobile toilets between Friday 27th and Monday 30th August.

This is basically a superficial cleaning job; mopping floors, wiping round the hand basins and re-stocking toilet rolls, paper hand towels and soap. Rubber gloves and a team T-shirt are provided (plus free entry to the show of course), and if we do all 4 days a guaranteed £500 would be in our bank account - it could easily be more!



We have already got the nucleus of a good team of volunteers, but we need a ~~big~~ big crew if we are going to be able to do this well. Toilet units will probably need servicing three or four times daily, so the more people we have on the rota the easier it will be. **Could you help us?** L&H will give a free "all day breakfast" to all "Loo Crew" volunteers.

If you will be staying at the Festival, either on a boat or camping, or if you live locally and would like to join the "Chain Gang" please contact us. We also need a number of volunteers to rattle the cash buckets and collect donations. For more details (without obligation) phone Sue Williams on 01543 671427 or send an email to info@lhcr.org.uk

Toodaloo





Lock 25. Northwest WRG lay concrete to seal the top of the old brickwork in April
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)



London WRG complete the bricklaying on the bridge abutment wall below Lock 25
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

(advertisement)



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TREES FROM PRESTON BROOK



Di Skillbeck, Daphne Luft, Pat Magee and Peter Magee (Photo by Jan Horton)

Pat & Pete Magee take delivery of small trees from Di Skilbeck from her boat Carmen moored at Huddlesford. Di took the opportunity to deliver her small 'cargo' of native trees en route from Preston Brook to Lechlade. The trees are all saplings from her garden and include holly, beech, hawthorn, rowan and alder which will be used for hedgerows along the canal.



Large coping and quoin stones off Lock 24 uncovered whilst digging out the offside wall.

(Photo by Sue Williams)

PRESS & PUBLICITY

Our press and publicity report this quarter covers April, May and June 2004.

The generous donation of a sales trailer from the Huddersfield Canal Society to the Trust was reported in CBW39 and has since been suitably acknowledged in the press. In April *The Lichfield Post* had "Gift of display unit for canal restoration group" with a picture of the hand-over, and the *Express & Star* reported it twice (!) with "Canals in boost for tourism" and "Canal trust can show off its waterway work". *The Lichfield Mercury* combined pictorial reports of the trailer and of our Easter gathering at Whittington Wharf in "Weekend of fun afloat for waterway campaign", whilst *The Post* pictured and summarised the event as "Fun fundraiser for canals". The well-used photo of the trailer hand-over also appeared in colour in the June edition of *Waterways World* as "Recycled mobile".

Our Vice-President David Suchet continues to attract welcome publicity to our cause, featuring in a full page article in *The Birmingham Post* in April headlined "From Death On The Nile to New Life For Canal", highlighting the achievement of the aqueduct and the attractions of Staffordshire's canals. The launch of a new publicity leaflet for 'Staffordshire – The Canal County' was announced in *The Post* in May as "Campaign to put our waterways on the map", providing another opportunity to mention the Trust. The *Express & Star* in "Canals trust is seeking helpers" picked up on our Chairman's plea in CBW39 for more help with our land and engineering work.

An attractively illustrated 4 page colour article by Alan Barnes entitled "A Calmer 'Relief Road' in the Making" was published in the May edition of *Old Glory* magazine, bringing news of the Trust's project and achievements to a wider audience in the transport and industrial heritage restoration community.

Publicity for the Trust's new 'double ended' booklet "A Tale of Two Canals" was given by *Canal & Riverboat* magazine in June in a report on "L&H book launched at the NEC show", and in the same month *Waterways World* featured our web site as 'site of the month' with a very complimentary write-up by Jim Shead.

(continued over)

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.

PRESS & PUBLICITY (continued)

Another generous donation to the Trust, that of a whole boat load of 7,600 bricks, was reported in *The Post* in June as "Brick donation to rebuild our heritage" with a colour picture of them being unloaded by our volunteers at Streethay Wharf. *Waterways World* for July gave the full story of "A well travelled load!" with pictures of boats Radiant and Regulus heading for Streethay and of owners Mike and Cath Turpin handing over the first of the estimated 18 tons of bricks to delighted Trust members.

Our Marketing Group's attendance at the Brownhills Waterfront Festival in June was pictured in an article in the *Express & Star* titled "Waterfront festival is sparkling success – Thousands turn out to enjoy canal event", with a colour picture of Trevor and Keith holding up a Trust banner.

Phil Sharpe



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Our New display unit Outside Tudor signs after having the signs put on by Tudor Signs staff, Emma, Cheryl and Daniell.

Our thanks go to Trevor the owner of Tudor Signs for donating the signs free of charge.

(Photo by Peter Magee)

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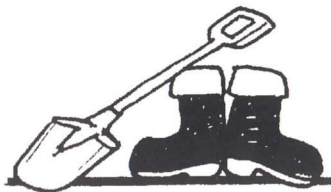
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LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

Considerable progress has been made between April and June at our main work site at Tamworth Road, with further excavation and rebuilding work on both parts of the site. The continued excavation of the offside pound wall above Lock 25 was helped by the loan of "Blue", the 803 excavator from WRG, for 3 weeks in May. To make best use of it we organised extra work parties on 3 consecutive weekends, including 4 days over the bank holiday ! Thanks in particular to Keith, Bob and Simon for the driving and to everyone else who answered the calls for help at short notice, recovering a large quantity of bricks and hand digging the tricky bits. A huge amount of spoil has been shifted, I estimate about 800 tonnes, with the 803 and our own JCB plus the two dumpers. We have now uncovered the full length of the roadside wall and the entrance narrows to Lock 24. A combined visit of London WRG and Essex WRG in June also enabled more of it to be cleaned off so that we can assess the extent of the rebuilding required. This will be a considerable task, but we do have a sound foundation to build on over most of the length, and we plan to consolidate the brickwork on the Canal Camp in August and seek funding to employ contractors to undertake the main part of the rebuilding thereafter.

One challenge was to remove the roots of the sycamore tree which had been felled for us by the City Council's contractors as it was a danger to road traffic. After much hand digging by WRG around the roots which straddled the wall, it was finally prised loose by the JCB. Several smaller trees which were in the way have also been removed, with the agreement of the Darwin Walk Trust, City and District councils, in anticipation of which we had already planted replacements some years ago between the wall and the road. Another challenge has been to uncover the cache of huge coping stones and quoin stones from Lock 24 dumped in the bed when the lock was part demolished and the canal filled in. These will have to be removed before the adjacent section of wall can be rebuilt. Interestingly, the offside wall has proved to be full depth and the number of small coping stones recovered show that it must have been a wharf, conveniently situated alongside the road.

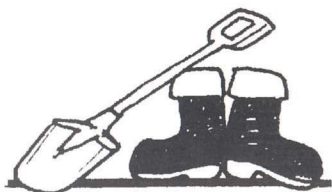
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Copies of issues 1 to 39 are available from the Editor

Stephen Pitt 11 Silkmore Lane, Stafford, ST17 4JN

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LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

All the excitement of the archaeological excavations, never quite knowing what we would uncover, has not distracted us from making good progress with rebuilding too. At Lock 26 the 8m section of towpath wall has been shuttered and filled with concrete, and below Lock 25 the bridge abutment wall has been built up to ground level, involving some quite tricky battered angles to the brickwork, ably completed by the London WRG contingent. They also managed to cut out about half of the ladder recess on L25 using a hired kango and our newly purchased generator, whilst Essex WRG helped clear out the towpath side bottom gate thrust block area and removed some tree roots. Numerous other smaller jobs have also been done, including moving and burning brash, clearing out the garage, repairing a puncture on the small dumper, and repairing the fences after minor vandalism.

As if this was not enough, we also had two well-attended evening work parties at Streethay Wharf to unload the 7,600 bricks, estimated at 18 tons, kindly donated to us by Mike and Cath Turpin from their boat *Regulus*. Every one was removed by hand from the boat and stacked on pallets and then transported to storage at Tamworth Road where they can be used for rebuilding work.

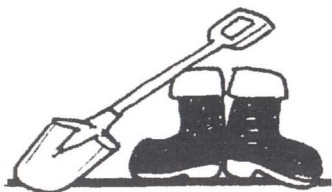
If you would like to help us keep up the momentum of the work, more help is always needed on our local work parties, even if you can spare only a few hours at a time.

To find our usual 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. Check the latest dates with 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:

August:	Sunday 1, Saturday 14, WRG Canal Camp Sat 14-21.
September:	Sunday 5, London WRG Sat/Sun 11/12, Saturday 18, WRG BITM Sat/Sun 18/19.
October:	Sunday 3, Saturday 16.
November:	Sunday 7, Saturday 20.
December:	Sunday 5, Saturday 18.



HATHERTON CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

Our midweek mowing teams have once again been hard at work keeping the Hatherton towpath walkable, despite nature's best efforts to overwhelm us in the spring. We have also managed to treat some tree stumps to prevent regrowth and have had a first go at controlling the invasive Himalayan Balsam behind the Roman Way. As ever, towpath and hedgerow maintenance is the first priority in the summer, and provides a pleasant day out in the country, so why not join us?

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 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December.



It's in there somewhere! Bob and Peter rediscover the entrance to Lock 24
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS
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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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