

The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

Issue 42 WINTER 2005



Keith dredging the Darnford Brook with 'Blue'
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show 2005
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

It is the nature of writing articles for magazines such as Cut Both Ways that there is a considerable delay between the writing and the reading. This is being written in those dog days between Christmas and the New Year. Usually, the newspapers are heavily padded with retrospectives of the old year and crystal ball gazing into the new year. Sadly, all is currently overshadowed by the appalling death toll and the human suffering caused by the underwater earthquake in the Indian Ocean. The need to raise money to help with relief work will dominate hearts and minds for a very long time to come. In a sense, it puts all other forms of fund-raising into a stark new perspective.

However, the retrospection and the crystal ball gazing will continue. In 2005 the Trust will pass its 17th birthday which will bring its 20th anniversary into the very near future. When we started we set ourselves 20 years to bring the work to completion. It is one of those predictions which has haunted us as the years have passed. It was made in honesty but naivety. Every time I give any kind of interview or we make any public presentation everyone wants to know when we now anticipate completion. Our answers can only be of the kind which makes everyone smile when politicians fend off questions they don't wish to answer, or simply don't know how to. It is clear to us now that we have a very long haul ahead of us. This is very largely because we now have a much fuller understanding of what has to be done. It is vital that we meet this new understanding with confidence and renewed determination.

If we start with retrospection we have much of which we can be rightly proud. Not least of our achievements had been to gain recognition as a project which can, and certainly will, be completed. In the early days it was hard to get anyone in official capacities to take the Trust seriously. Now we can knock on doors and be confident that they will be opened and that those who sit at the desks behind them will talk to us. British Waterways, the Waterways Trust, IWAAC, the Government Office of the West Midlands and our four local authorities treat us with seriousness and respect. This may not often yield the practical and financial help we so urgently need but this is a vital building block in the slow advance towards completion.

(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)

I often think of the members of our board who served in those difficult days when we started and whom death has taken from us. This thought recurred when I recently heard of the passing of Edna Salmon who tirelessly supported Stan in all his work for the canals of the Midlands, not least L&H.

What the public sees, of course is different. Those who walk the section of the Hatherton from The Roman Way to Cats Bridge can see progress. The people of Lichfield who use the Darwin Walk or drive along the Tamworth Road can see the restored locks and the emerging canal bed. Drivers on the M6 Toll and the A5 can see the aqueduct, even if they do not always understand what it is. We can, and do, show visitors the many other things we have done. All are causes of pride and reasonable satisfaction but they are small steps on a very long road.

Predicting the future is a much less exact science. Despite all our achievements and the many successful initiatives on which we are currently working we must surely be thinking in decades rather than years when answering that most difficult question of "When will the canals be open?". The most recent British Waterways publication sees the Lichfield Canal completed by 2025 but this is an estimate and not a promise. What is increasingly clear is that the main onus lies on the Trust to push the restoration forward. We cannot, at least in the short to medium term, expect any other body to do this for us. This may well require us to look more strategically at our future. The climate for restoration is different from even five years ago and may well change again in the five years ahead.

(continued over)



Lock 24 bywash weir consolidation by LWRG & KESCRG, in December.
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

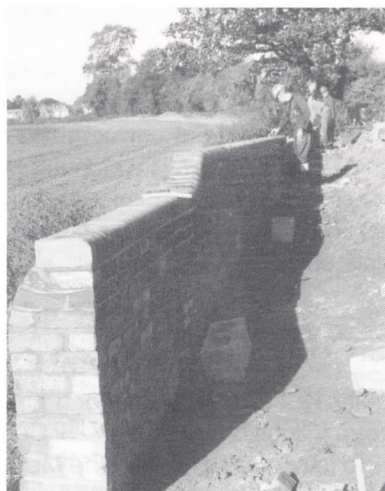
CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

This magazine contains the summary of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004 and notification of the Annual General Meeting at which they will be presented for approval. This is the time when directors retiring by rotation present themselves for re-election and the opportunity arises for the election of new directors. Not everyone feels sufficiently confident to present themselves for election but there are always ways in which those who want to become involved can make themselves known and make offers of help at whatever level they wish. The Trust always needs the skills and expertise of new members. We need enthusiasm but we also need the skills which people build up in their working lives and which they can then commit to the Trust. It is vital that we regenerate our board and the committees which support the Directors. If you can help us in any way please make yourself known.

There is much to which we can look forward in 2005. The rebuilding of Cappers Bridge should start in the early spring and we should have in our hands the Arup studies on the Hatherton. We hope to participate in another event at Huddlesford in association with Lichfield Cruising Club. We are making steady progress in identifying the packages of land which we can reasonably hope to acquire and, where funds permit, buying them. We will see practical restoration continuing at Tamworth Road, much accelerated by the volunteer groups which are part of "Dig Deep". The Marketing Group will continue to raise money and spread the news of L & H far and wide.

Our ultimate success will depend on our ability to energise an expanding membership which is committed to success.

Brian Kingshott



Before and after shots of Lock 25 retaining wall, Bitm laying new copings.
(photo's by Phil Sharpe)

THE BRITISH WATERWAYS VIEW OF RESTORATION

In October Robin Evans, Chief Executive of BW addressed the IWA annual conference for waterways societies. There were several of us from the Trust in the audience and we were keen to know how BW now sees the restoration movement. What Robin had to say was based on the recently published "Waterways 2005".

Much of the presentation was reassuring in its tone but there was also a sharper edge than we had recently seen and plenty of detail which gave much cause for thought. The opening message was very encouraging: "Restored waterways are vibrant waterways. Restoration is integral to the vision and is integral to meeting the challenge for BW's waterways." "BW is committed to restoration". Then came the criteria against which that commitment is judged. In summary these are: need, sustainability and network.

Navigation is not seen by funders as the primary motivation for restoration. The primary focus is on issues such as heritage, regeneration, biodiversity and public access with boating to provide the colour and interest. Other major considerations are employment, the promotion of "social inclusion and community capacity building", business opportunities and local support from councils, communities and waterways groups.

A further key message concerned funding, both of the scheme itself and of the ongoing maintenance commitment. BW is required by government to ensure that by accepting a restored waterway into its network this does not bring any additional long-term financial liability. Robin reviewed the current situation on the 11 Priority One schemes in which BW is currently involved and the further 7 schemes covered in "Waterways 2025". The Lichfield Canal is among the latter seven.

What was clear to me at the end of a fascinating hour was that the onus for restoring both our canals rests firmly and uncompromisingly on the Trust. It is for us to build our case, form our partnerships and raise our funds. It is for us to show that we can deliver waterways which are sustainable and in good heart. It is for us to continue to win hearts and minds and never to assume that our many achievements to date give us a fully validated, enduring and automatic passport to inevitable success.

Brian Kingshott

Membership rates are:

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

To join, please contact the Membership Secretary (see address page).

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

LICHFIELD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Responses to the first stage of targeted consultations on the Lichfield Local Development Framework have been encouraging, with support for the Lichfield Canal restoration from BW, Lichfield City Council, Walsall Council, Chasewater Railway and others. Even the Environment Agency's usual comment about water resources was expressed in a more positive manner. The only negative was from Westbury Homes who do not want to make developer contributions.

Our own response welcomes the protected route and encourages a greater involvement of LDC in the restoration. However, we are very concerned about the proposed future extension of the Lichfield Southern Bypass from Birmingham Road to London Road which would severely impact on the essential diversion route for the canal. We suggested that the traffic need for this section of the road should be fundamentally re-assessed, the Housing Strategy site for 80 dwellings south of Wordsworth Close should be deleted, the so-called 'Area of Development Restraint' should be returned to Green Belt, and that any future proposals for development in this 'South Lichfield' area should be re-examined in a co-ordinated way along with the canal route so as to ensure a viable corridor and retention of an attractive environment for the canal.

There is to be a full public consultation on the revised LDF documents in February / March, and it would be most helpful if as many as possible of our members who live in Lichfield District could respond positively in support of our objectives. Comments from wider afield may also carry some weight, particularly from members who work in or visit Lichfield or would make use of the restored canal. The documents will be available on the www.lichfielddc.gov.uk website.

LICHFIELD SOUTHERN BYPASS

New road schemes are a recurring threat to our canal restorations (see 'Another M6Toll?' In CBW41) and the currently planned section of the Lichfield Southern Bypass between the Walsall Railway line and Birmingham Road is also a cause for concern. This is to be largely financed by the housing development off Chesterfield Road to which it provides access, and which in turn necessitates the canal diversion at Sandfields. We recently had a meeting with officers of Staffordshire County Council Highways about their plans and timescale, and pointed out that under the Government's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, revised in 2001 as a result of our battles with the BNRR (M6 Toll), they were obliged to ensure that the necessary canal diversion route and bridges were included in the scheme. Surprisingly, they were not apparently aware of this, despite our many previous discussions, and we now await their revised proposals with interest.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN'S NOTES (continued)

BROWNHILLS BYPASS

Fortunately, Walsall Council are aware of their obligations and recognise the need to provide a replacement bridge for the Lichfield Canal on Barracks Lane as part of their recently revived proposals for a Brownhills Bypass. At a recent meeting and site visit with their consultants Faber Maunsell we were able to explain the 3 alignment options we had identified, the merits of changing the road alignment rather than the canal, and the importance of maintaining the canal's original levels, lock positions and side pound areas. It is helpful to be involved at this preliminary stage when we can influence the design, although it could be 5 years yet before construction begins.

DONATIONS

Among the many generous donations received recently have been £1,500 from the Inland Waterways Association, Lichfield Branch towards our funding shortfall for Cappers Lane Bridge, and a further £5,000 drawdown of the grant from Sir John Smith's Manifold Trust to cover what we hope will be the final bills for the Lichfield Canal Aqueduct.

Phil Sharpe

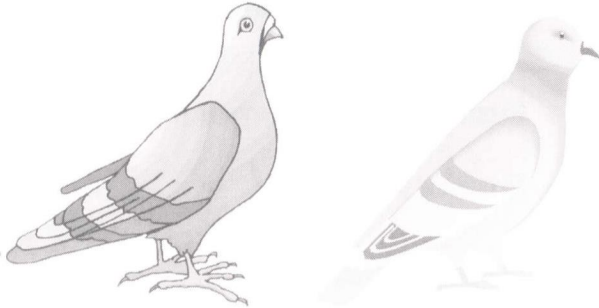


Pound 24/25 offside wall, LWRG rebuilding the gap in September.
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

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DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

Amounts over £20 from 3rd October to 31st December 2004.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Land Fund	Restoration Fund
Five gifts for M J & Mrs A Fileman's Golden Wedding anniversary	100.00		
Macclesfield Canal Society (talk)	40.60		
Mrs E Scott (with sub.)	100.00		
Methodist Church, Chadsmoor (talk)	25.00		
IWA, Lichfield Branch	1,500.00		
Eric Wood (2 donations)	67.50		
Rotary Club of Aldridge (talk)	50.00		
Dr I M Thompson	50.00		
IWA Chiltern Branch (additional)	40.00		
Mrs J Thomas, Longwood B/C talk	25.00		
R O Williams (donated Marketing expenses 2001-2004)	1144.80		
Brian Kingshott (donated expenses)	213.30		
Mr S B Wheat, Brick Appeal	20.00		
David Stanistreet (since April 2004)		270.00	
Rev A Cooper		50.00	
Dr Ted Hiscock (sale of artwork)			500.00

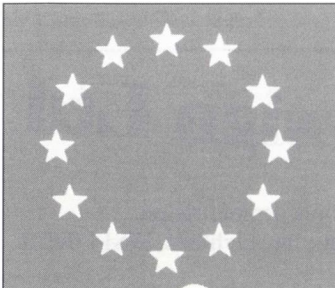
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For details about our Regular Giving Scheme
contact Bob Williams Tel 01543 671427

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The Trust receives grant
assistance from the
European Regional
Development Fund

PRIZE WINNERS!

Congratulations to all the lucky winners in our Grand Prize Draw for 2004 whose tickets were pulled out of the bag at our Barn Dance in Whittington on 6th November. We were very pleased that Nina Dawes, Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council, was present to draw the winners, assisted by Alan Parkes for his sponsored prize.

With the more popular £1 ticket and generously donated prizes, sales went very well last year, many members taking the opportunity to sell some to family, friends or fellow-workers, adding nearly £3,600 to the Trust's funds.

The winners were:-

1. A £500 4-day narrowboat holiday donated by Alvechurch Boat Centres,
No.012496 Mr J. R. Cox, Wyld Green, Sutton Coldfield.
2. £100.00 cash donated by Alan Parkes Design Ltd, Lichfield,
No.003179 Mrs K. Knight, Market Drayton, Shropshire.
3. Large limited edition print by Polyanna Pickering,
No.002297 Mr L. Hewitt, Brownhills, Walsall.
4. 12 months magazine subscription donated by Waterways World,
No.013145 Mr A. Myatt, Sawley Marina, Nottinghamshire.
5. National Trust gift worth £20 donated by David Wheeler, Devon,
No.014141 Mr C. Dean, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
6. Framed cross-stitch picture of Hazelhurst Junction by Abacus Designs,
No.012591 Mr A. D. Brookes, Solihull, West Midlands.
7. Choice of video from Laurence Hogg Productions,
No.002662 Mrs E. Harris, Stechford, Birmingham.
8. Limited edition L & H historic "Darnford Nut" paperweight,
No.006528 Mr & Mrs C. Crane, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
9. Selection of L & H promotional products,
No.005687 Mrs M. O'Riley, Cheadle, Staffordshire.

As ever, we are very grateful to everyone who took part. A new Prize Draw will start in February 2005 with another selection of valuable prizes to be won, helping the Trust with the continuing demand for fund-raising. Tickets will be on sale at the annual National Boat, Caravan & Outdoor Show at the N.E.C., Birmingham. Come and visit our Stand No.5536 in the centre of Hall 5.

Bob Williams, Draw Promoter

Alan Parkes Design Ltd

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Tele; 01543 480024

New Members up to 31st December 2004

Mr P. B. Green,	Bumtwood, Staffs.
Mr P. Hunt,	Armitage
Mr A.G. Page,	Barrow on Trent
Mr I. Parrott,	Shardlow
Mr J.Allen,	Sutton Coldfield
Mr C.A. Duckett,	Sutton Coldfield
Mr A.J. Fairey,	Aldridge
Mr and Mrs J. Fellows,	Lichfield
Ms S. Cawson,	Little Comberton
Mr and Mrs B.J. Bateman,	Sutton Coldfield
Dr J.F. Seigel,	Alrewas
Dr E.J. Muller,	Alrewas
Chase Academy,	Cannock
Mrs E. Kemp,	Westbury on Trym
Prebendary I.B. Cook MA,	Brewood
Mr A. Ainsworth,	Newport, Shropshire
Mr C. Weston,	West Kirby
Mr R.W. Cripps,	Eastbourne
Mr R.M. Brant,	Sutton Coldfield
Mr J.D. Rushton,	Aldridge
Mr T. Myatt,	Sawley, Long Eaton
Mrs C. Myatt,	Sawley, Long Eaton
Mr A.J. Wintringham,	Cheadle
Mr D. Nutting,	Rushall, Walsall
Mr D. Murcott,	Whittington, Staffs.



Vade Securitas

Andrew Phasey
Boat Safety Scheme Examiner

Telephone: 07850 – 753633
email: andrew.phasey@btinternet.com

Please contact me to discuss the Standards required by the Boat Safety Scheme prior to an Examination; or to arrange a visit to your boat club or society to provide advice to boat owners.

Go Boating– Stay Safe

Marketing Report

May I Start by wishing all our members a very happy New Year for 2005 and hope it will be as successful as that of 2004.

Barn Dance November 2004

The highlight of the evening was the Grand Prize Draw which this time exceeded £3,700 in ticket sales. For a full list of the winners see page 12 in this issue or visit our web site.

Our grateful thanks to Pat and Terry for working so hard to produce a choice of three very tasty meals. Bob, Sue and Mavis did a sterling job manning the bar. Thanks to Trish for helping in the kitchen, also to David for helping set up the hall. The evening went with a swing. Music was provided by Rannygazoo. Despite fierce competition from lots of bonfire parties we still managed a profit of £616.

Brownhills Christmas Fair December Sunday 5th.

I think everyone must have completed their Christmas shopping by the time they got to the fair. Even though we had some nice bargains on sale, business was slow. Total raised £117.50. Thanks to all our helpers, Terry Brown, Jean Handley, Barry Kenn and Trish Humphries.

Future Events:

February 2005

OwnerShips Show Braunston Sat 5th – Sun 6th

N E C Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show Sat 19th – Sun 27th

Volunteers needed. Please contact Dave Moore Tel: 01543 432718

March

Social Evening and Supper. 7.30 pm. Sat 19th

Pigeon Racing: Tickets £6 including supper at St. John's Church Hall, Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes. Book your tickets early, it promises to be a fun evening. Phone Mike Brown on 01543 450541

April

A G M April 23rd Sat 2.pm. at Thomas Spencer Hall, Whittington, Lichfield.

Boat gathering at Huddlesford with Lichfield Cruising Club, to take place Sat 30th April and Sun 1st May.

Mike Brown Marketing Chairman

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 15th Annual General Meeting of The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd. will be held at the **Thomas Spencer Hall, Church Street, Whittington**, near Lichfield, Staffordshire on **Saturday 23rd April 2005 at 2 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting 17/4/04
3. Matters Arising
4. Directors' Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Directors:
 - (a) Directors retiring by rotation and standing for re-election:
Bob Williams
Trevor Morris
 - (b) Any other nominations received
8. Appointment of Auditor: West - Chartered Accountants
9. Any Other Business

Note 1: A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy. A Form of Proxy can be obtained from the Company Secretary (Sue Williams), to whom they should be returned at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

Note 2: A summary of the 2004 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.

Please note change of venue from previous years.



LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED
DRAFT BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st December 2004

	31 December 2004		31 December 2003	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Freehold Land at cost	49,686		48,486	
Improvements to canal land at Darnford (depreciated)	1,009		2,018	
Investment in subsidiary company shares	2		2	
Total Fixed Assets		50,697		50,506
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors:				
Net assets available from subsidiary company	2,968		2,335	
GOWM, ERDF grant 10% retention	36,191	39,159	35,981	38,316
Bank balances:				
<i>Restricted funds:-</i>				
Land Fund donations, net of expenditure	5,958		2,118	
Restoration Fund - general, net of expenditure	2,063		243	
- Chase Academy for Hatherton Canal	1,000			
- Donations for L25 & L26 paddle gear	2,756			
Brick Appeal funds, net of expenditure	1,153		1,358	
Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust grant for property fees	1,000		1,000	
Lichfield Canal, Tamworth Road match funding	1,005			
Manifold Trust grant balance	284			
<i>ERDF grant</i>			50,000	
<i>Designated funds:-</i>				
Restoration budget unused	2,324		4,764	
<i>Unrestricted funds:-</i>				
Trust funds for general use	5,457		517	
Total funds in Deposit a/cs		23,000		60,000
Bank of Scotland Trust current a/c	185		165	
Lloyds TSB Trust current a/c	333		520	
Lloyds TSB Marketing current a/c	544		146	
Total funds in Current a/cs		1,062		831
Total assets before current liabilities		113,918		149,653
LIABILITIES:				
<i>Project payment to British Waterways</i>				(70,000)
Potential net recovery of VAT in 2004 pending HMCE policy decision	2,480			
TOTAL NET RESOURCES		116,398		79,653
RESERVES:				
Income & Expenditure Account		116,398		79,653
NOTES:				
<i>Outstanding grant from the Manifold Trust</i>	£33,000		£41,000	
<i>Outstanding grant from IWA Restoration Committee</i>	£5,000		£5,000	
<i>Potential net recovery of VAT in 2003 pending HMCE policy decision</i>	£37,935		£30,000	
<i>"Burton" land for Cappers Bridge in course of transfer to SCC</i>	£6,500			

This page and the following page are based on the Trust's accounts for 2004 which are subject to formal examination and presentation to the Annual General Meeting. Any member requiring a full set of the 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 31 December 2004

	2004 (excl.VAT)		2003 (incl.VAT)	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions from members (excl. Marketing below) @@		10,277		10,242
Donations:				
Land Fund	5,041		1,648	
Restoration Fund	6,077		243	
Received with subscriptions	3,322		2,793	
Other (excl. Marketing collections - below)	8,599	23,039	4,124	8,808
Income generated by Marketing and Retail Trading:				
Trust & Public events	4,121		2,084	
Membership subscriptions collected at shows etc. @@	1,529		1,453	
Brick Appeal	570		1,380	
Grand Prize Draw	3,625		2,005	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements	4,496		3,397	
Profits from Retail Trading subsidiary company	2,469		4,835	
Sub-total ***	16,810		15,154	
less income transferred to Appeal Funds	(820)	15,990	(1,446)	13,708
Tax, interest etc:				
Gift Aid tax reclaim (excl. Suchet Appeal)	4,826		3,744	
Bank interest	1,682		2,208	
Wayleave for electricity pole at Darnford	10		9	
Subsidiary company loan interest	-	6,518	20	5,981
SUB-TOTAL REGULAR INCOME		55,824		38,739
Specific Appeal and Grants				
David Suchet Appeal (+ interest + GA tax - costs)	2,491		64,768	
The Manifold Trust	8,000		194,000	
Others: LCC, HSBC	1,000		35,550	
European Regional Development Fund [ERDF]	210	11,701	737,603	1,031,921
TOTAL INCOME		67,525		1,070,660
EXPENDITURE				
Restoration costs				
Hatherton Canal	195		0	
Lichfield Canal	2,978		2,467	
Accommodation (wrg group visits)	575		0	
Tools, Plant, Machinery, Training	2,435	(6,183)	2,103	(4,570)
Operational costs				
Professional fees and costs	11,864		6,970	
Membership & Magazine administration	4,356		4,074	
Direct cost of Marketing activity ***	3,910		4,130	
Direct cost of Funding Appeals	575		1,431	
General Administration	3,412		2,690	
Insurance premium (IWA policy)	603		524	
Membership subscriptions (IWA; LDTA; PWG)	194		150	
Hire of hall for A.G.M.	21	(24,935)	26	(19,995)
Project costs				
Hatherton Canal [2003 ERDF grant expenditure - excl. land]	0		191,250	
Lichfield Canal (including M.E.L. aqueduct VAT refund)	(1,775)		396,055	
ERDF grant works [2003 SCC Cappers Bridge contract]	428	1,347	525,581	(1,112,886)
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS ON TRUST ACTIVITIES		37,754		(66,791)
less Depreciation of canal improvements at Darnford		(1,009)		(1,009)
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		36,745		(67,800)
Retained Surplus brought forward		79,653		147,453
Retained Surplus carried forward		£116,398		£79,653

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

ECOLOGY MATTERS

Progress – A big thank you to West Midlands Co-op

You may have seen in the January 2004 edition of Canal and Riverboat magazine and also in our local Press, the presentation of tools to us, that were purchased with funds generously donated by The West Midlands Co-op. These tools were to enable us to complete our canal-side hedge laying projects around Lichfield.

It is therefore pleasing to be able to report the very substantial progress we have achieved since then that would not otherwise have been possible without that kind support.

By the end of the last season (March-April) over 300 metres of hedge had been re-layed, under-planting completed and nest boxes made with recycled wood put in place along the old Canal line at Fosseyway. Local walkers reported that the latter were quickly occupied, obviously an area for 'Des Res'.

In addition, since hedging recommenced this season (October) a further 500 metres of grossly neglected hedge along by Lock 24 down to the A38 has been restored.

The Lichfield District Council Biodiversity Strategy for our region, published in June this year, states in Section 5, "Lichfield District Habitat Targets and Action Plans" in the subsection 5 "Hedgerows": -

"Hedgerows provide a vital habitat for a range of wildlife by providing food and shelter... Hedgerows provide important distribution links between larger wildlife habitats, especially if there is another feature such as a road verge, **CANAL**, railway embankment and other linear features which are important nature corridors."

The Strategy goes on to set specific targets, including the following:

"Target 1. To limit the loss and degradation of hedgerows, and promote their management District-wide.

Target 2. To create 30 km of new hedgerows within the District.

Target 3. To create 1m wide margins and where possible 2 to 6 m margins along 15km of hedgerows within the District.

(continued over)

Press date for Cut Both Ways 43 is 5th April 2006

ECOLOGY MATTERS (continued)

In addition, there are Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) targets:

To increase the net amount of diverse hedgerow by 200 km through new planting by 2010.

To achieve the favourable management for 200km of all ancient/diverse hedgerows by 2010."

Therefore within two years, and with the West Midlands Co-op's help, we have already achieved a significant contribution towards the targets set, with more still possible this season.

If any members would like to try their hand at this ancient craft we are often to be found at the Tamworth road site over the weekend and your assistance would be welcomed. There is much more still to be done.

Interested? Then please give me a call on 01543 300090.

Mike Battisson Environment Director

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Phil Sharpe from Arup and Phil Sharpe from LHCRT survey the tramway where the Hatherton Canal is expected to cross Wrley Lane (Photo Bob Williams)



Hatherton canal Lock 2 (Photo by Bob Williams)

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BARRY KENN'S FALL FROM GRACE

Having recently celebrated his 60th year on planet Earth, Trust member Barry Kenn was gobsmacked to receive the "gift of all gifts" from his partner and family, namely a tandem parachute jump from around 10,000 feet. *{they love him really}*

Having parachuted many years ago and reaching maximum height of 3,000 feet, He had often expressed a desire to experience a much longer free fall which only a tandem jump can achieve without the many hours of training. He now wishes he kept his mouth shut.

It seems a good opportunity to use the event as a money raiser for the LHCRT and he intends to sponsor himself through friends and family etc..

The jump will take place around April, May or June 2005 and any one wishing to sponsor him should send their donations direct to him. If for some unforeseen reason the jump could not be done, monies could be re-funded should anyone so wish.

Contact **Barry Kenn** at **40 Hawthorn Road, Shelfield, Walsall, WS4 1PD**
or E-mail to **barrykenn@hotmail.com**

Land Officer's Update

After over a year's protracted negotiations two of our land purchases moved forward in the week before Christmas. The Trust completed the purchase of 4.4 acres of land near Great Wyrley from the Holford Farm Group. The land will enable us to construct some 700 metres of new channel for the Hatherton Canal. We have arranged that it will continue to be used as farm land by the vendor until such time as the Trust is in a position to start construction works. We also signed the contract for the purchase of the land needed for the reconstruction of the Cappers Lane Bridge on the Lichfield Canal. We expect to complete the transaction early in the New Year and will then transfer the land to the Staffordshire County Council so that the reconstruction can begin in the summer.

Mike Smith Land Officer

Back Copies of Cut Both Ways available at £1.00 Each

Copies of issues 1 to 41 are available from the Editor

Stephen Pitt 11 Silkmore Lane, Stafford, ST17 4JN

Cheques made payable to LHCRT Ltd

PRESS & PUBLICITY

This report covers the quarter October to December 2004, during which time the main media interest has been in the Huddlesford Gathering. Firstly, however, the advance publicity continued in September with the *Express & Star* reporting the last ever canalside performance by Day-Star in "Final canal show from group is set for festival", and later on "Historic narrowboat gathering on canal". Meanwhile, the *Cannock & Lichfield Chronicle* had "Signs point way to feast of festival fun" followed by "Day of fun down by the canal". Not to be outdone, the *Mercury* included pictures of the steamer President and of a London WRG work party with a plea for more volunteer help in their report of "A festival of fun down on the canal".

Reports of the event itself were many, and fulsome in their praises. The *Express & Star* had "Historic delights on canal" with 3 colour pictures including one of Rob Davies looking resplendent in 18th century dress in the guise of James Brindley. *The Post* headlined "Post at Celebr18th – Canal's historic day" with pictures of the boats and the signpost ceremony, whilst other editions featured Michael Fabricant in "Canal fingerpost unveiled". The *Mercury*, however, in its "Wat-er way to mark occasion" pictured the wrong trousers, sorry - sign post; the one at Huddlesford Junction, rather than the one pointing there!

Turning to magazines; December's *Waterways World* had a report and picture of "New fingerpost unveiled" and the letters pages had a view of steamers Monarch and President together at the junction, whilst their "10 years ago" retrospective reminded us that in December 1994 the Trust was due to present its case to the BNRR public inquiry. Publications with a more limited distribution include Lichfield Cruising Club's *The Knot* which had a good selection of photos with its report, and *Towpath Talk* which carried a report on "Huddlesford Junction Gathering" with another signpost picture. The *HNBOC Newsletter* naturally concentrated its account of "the Huddlesford Gathering" on the historic boats present, whilst IWA West Midland Region's *Navigation* had a report with several colour pictures. Finally, for those who eschew paper, the website *waterscape.com* was one of the first off the mark with "huddled together to celebrate 200 years".

(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)

But enough of Huddlesford for now; there have been some other events. For example, *The Post* presaged the "Barn Dance", and *Canal & Riverboat* for November recorded "Planning for bridge granted", about Cappers Bridge. The same month *Canal Boat & Inland Waterways* in its pages on the IWA National Festival pictured our marketing display with Michael Brown holding the canal Boat trophy for the best non-commercial stand. However, an article in the same edition on TWT's appointment of Timothy West as Vice-President apparently also recruited him to support us! In November, the *Express & Star* picked up on my comments in CBW41 about the new M6 proposals as "Threat of toll road to canals". In December, the previously mentioned *Towpath Talk* reported the continuation of the "Exhibition on the restoration of the Lichfield Canal at Lichfield Heritage Centre", and the January *Canal Boat* briefly stated that work on Cappers Lane Bridge was expected to start in February.

If any members should see reports on our activities in publications outside of our immediate area, it would be much appreciated if they could send or copy them to me.

Phil Sharpe

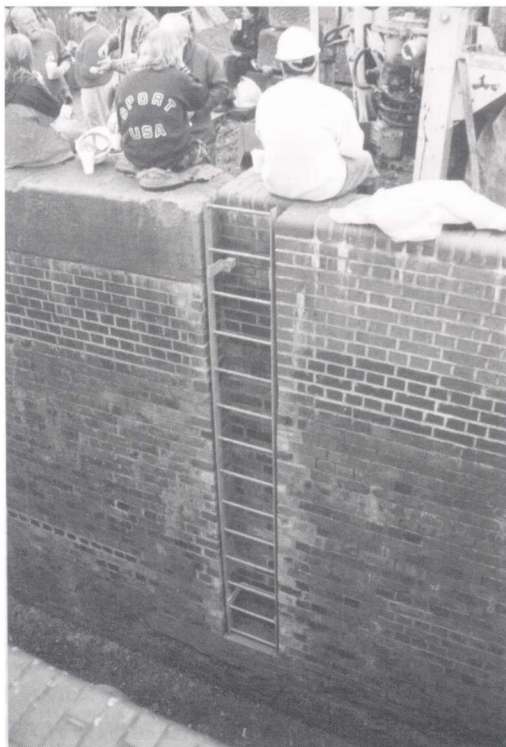
Lock 26 Ladder installed by
LWRG/KESCRG, in December
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)



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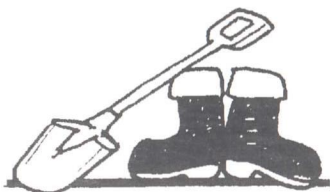
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HATHERTON CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

Our Sunday work party in October was postponed but some hedge trimming and strimming was done mid-week. In November we completely cleared the towpath from Oak Lane to the M6, including removing some invasive trees, and also tidied up as far as Cross Bridge. In December we started laying the previously missed section of hedge by Saredon Mill Bridge, which produced plenty of material for a bonfire to keep us warm, whilst mince pies and sherry made their annual appearance! Our plans for the new year include finishing of the hedge and then tackling some larger trees at several points on the offside. Join us when you can.

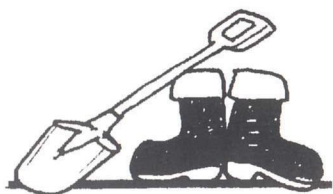
Our regular date is the third Sunday of each month, from 10 am, with some occasional extra days as required. Contact Denis Cooper on 01543 374370 (work) or Phil Sharpe on 01889 583330 for more details.

Work Party Dates: Sunday 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May, 19 June.

(continued over)



Lock 25 quadrant wall, rebuilding by LWRG/KESCRG, in December.
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

As well as our advertised dates twice a month, we have held a number of extra work parties from October to December and have been at Tamworth Road on one day or more every weekend up to Christmas.

In October our local volunteers were busy with the retaining wall at Lock 25; completing the copings, the end section, and patching and pointing; as well as working on the ladder recess, cleaning and moving bricks, clearing part of the roadside verge for safer access and parking, ground levelling, and hedgelaying below Lock 26. Keith also completed clearing out the Darnford Brook with 'Blue', the WRG 803 excavator, to improve the water flow.

In November we continued with hedgelaying and burning the brash at Lock 26, completed the end section of the pound wall, did further re-pointing and repairs to the retaining wall by Lock 25, and resumed building work on the towpath-side quadrant wall at Lock 25.

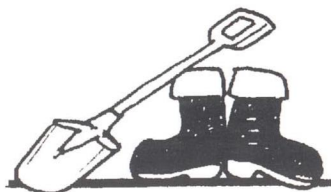
In early December we had a joint weekend visit from London Waterway Recovery Group (LWRG) and Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG) with up to 50 volunteers. At Tamworth Road they consolidated the remains of the by-wash weir at Lock 24, pointed and started rebuilding the Lock 24 wing walls, pointed the lower courses of the offside pound wall and dug out further behind the wall, cleaned some copings, continued construction of the quadrant wall on Lock 25, helped remove and burn the brash from hedgelaying in Mrs Attwood's Garden, cleaned out the bywash channel and installed the ladder in Lock 26. Some of the visitors went up to Fossey Lane site under Bob William's supervision where they cleared brambles and scrub from the gate to Lock 18, down the track alongside the railway and on the roadside, as well as removing saplings and stumps from the bed of the canal lower down.

(continued over)

(Don't forget)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 15th Annual General Meeting of The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd. will be held at the **Thomas Spencer Hall, Church Street, Whittington**, near Lichfield, Staffordshire on **Saturday 23rd April 2005 at 2 pm.**



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Our own work parties later in the month completed the hedgelaying and tidying up in the garden, including some replanting, commenced hedgelaying by Lock 24, and continued rebuilding the quadrant wall.

All together, we have had a very productive 3 months, with thanks to all who helped. As weather conditions, particularly frost, can interfere with bricklaying over the winter, there will be a larger element of non-construction activities including hedgelaying, tree felling, scrub bashing, fencing, excavation, landscaping and the like over the next quarter.

Our application for a 'Dig Deep' project has now been agreed which guarantees us a steady programme of weekends from the 4 participating groups (LWRG, KESCRG, BITM and NWPG), and visiting work parties are confirmed for each month now until May. A Canal Camp is also confirmed for 13-20th August.

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 of each month are supplemented by the intermediate Saturday, all from 10 am, and more help would be welcome, even if you can spare only a few hours. Check the latest plans with Phil Sharpe on 01889 583330, or visit our web site where any additional dates will be shown.

Work Party Dates:

February:	Kent & East Sussex CRG Sat/Sun 5/6, Saturday 19.
March:	Sunday 6, Newbury WPG Sat/Sun 12/13, Saturday 19.
April:	London WRG Sat/Sun 2/3, Saturday 16.
May:	Sunday 1, Newbury WPG Sat/Sun 7/8, Saturday 14.
June:	Sunday 5, Saturday 18.

Social Evening and Supper. 7.30 pm. Sat 19th

Pigeon Racing: Tickets £6 including supper at St. John's Church Hall, Hedgesford Road, Heath Hayes. Book your tickets early, it promises to be a fun evening.

Phone Mike Brown on 01543 450541

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS
RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.

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

The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited was established in 1988 as a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee (No. 2456172) and is registered as a Charity (No. 702429).

Principal Aims : To promote the restoration of the Wyrley and Essington Canal from Ogley Junction to Huddlesford Junction (the "Lichfield Canal"), and the Hatherton Branch of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, and also the construction of a navigable link between the Hatherton Branch and the Cannock Extension Canal.

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Vice-Chairman	Phil Sharpe	☎/Fax 01889 583330
	34 Old Eaton Road, Rugeley, Staffs. WS15 2EZ	
Finance	Bob Williams	☎01543 671427
	Fax 01543 677687	
	Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JP	
Secretary & Web Master	Sue Williams	☎01543 671427
	Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JP	
	e-mail: info@lhcr.org.uk	
Membership Secretary	Trevor Morris	☎0121 354 7952
	163 Halton Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6NZ	
Magazine Editor	Stephen Pitt	☎ (mobile) 07770 586978
	11 Silkmore Lane, Stafford, ST17 4JN	
Land Liaison	Mike Smith	☎01283 790543
	Brookhay Cottage, Brookhay Lane, Lichfield WS13 8RQ	
Marketing & Sales	Michael Brown	☎01543 450541
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Environment	Mike Battison	☎01543 300090
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Plant Manager	Peter Magee	☎01543 264935
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OTHER OFFICERS

Minutes Secretary	Chris Pattison	☎01543 263041
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