

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

Issue 46 WINTER 2006



Nina Dawes, Chief Executive Lichfield District Council pulls the prize draw tickets
(Photo by Bob Williams)

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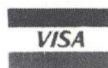
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

When asked what was the main determining factor in running government Harold Macmillan famously declared "Events, dear boy, events". A lengthy period in school management and almost two decades in the Lichfield and Hatherton have underlined the wisdom of this comment. We can plan the work for years or months or days ahead but what determines the agenda is what is in the post or the e-mail in-box. All too often "events" turn out to be seriously distracting or even threatening. Sometimes, "events" can be positive or benign.

I will start with one of the benign variety. I commented in the last Cut Both Ways that a request for information about our aqueduct resulted in an explanation appearing in *The Guardian*. I was pleased to see national publicity when we least expected it. I was even more surprised when we received a donation of £500 from the trustees of a charitable trust who had read the article, done some research and then decided that we are a worthy cause.

Elsewhere, "events" have caused us considerable work but some progress has been made, as you will read in detail elsewhere in the magazine. The planned construction of the Lichfield Southern Bypass has been a major issue for some years and came to a head during the autumn. As I promised last time, we mounted a powerful campaign to draw attention to the threat which the current proposals for the new road posed to the only viable route which the Lichfield Canal can take around the city. As I write, detailed discussions continue but I must pay tribute to all those who rallied to our cause. Expressions of support came from far and wide but we are especially grateful to IWA, British Waterways and Michael Fabricant MP. We have met Jim Knight, Waterways Minister, received legal advice by courtesy of British Waterways and are maintaining contact with everyone concerned.

(continued over)



Forming foundations for wing walls at Cappers Bridge on 15 December
(photo by Bob Williams)

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

Elsewhere, there is much positive news to report and this is especially important at present. I must stress that the restoration of the Lichfield Canal will be achieved. There will always be challenges to overcome but overcome they will be. The rebuilding of Cappers Bridge is going well and is on schedule. Completion is due in March after which we intend to hold a celebration on the weekend of the Annual General Meeting. Details will be finalised soon and we will seek to gain the maximum publicity from this achievement. It is typical of the challenges which we often face that the discussions and negotiations ahead of construction took years while the building work has taken months. We are grateful to local residents and the people of Whittington for their patience while the road is closed.

A further significant step forward has been the purchase of the Top Lock Cottage at Ogley. Through the generosity of Sir John Smith and the Manifold Trust we have been able to buy this house which gives us ownership of half a lock, albeit buried and containing a septic tank! We will be letting the cottage commercially and using workshop space for our own operations. In many ways it is the psychological value of the purchase which is important. We now have the potential for connection with the Anglesey Branch of the BCN and a toehold on the Ogley flight of locks. As we progress our discussions with Lichfield Cruising Club we also have the potential of a link with the Coventry Canal at Huddlesford. These two developments greatly strengthen our case for restoration. We were founded to restore both canals and thereby bring new life to the vastly underused northern BCN. It will be by stressing this that we will attract support from potential partners who can bring with them the vital political and financial clout.

It is clear that there remains a major task ahead in educating local politicians and their officials in exactly what waterways regeneration can bring to their electorates. We can easily make the assumption that everyone knows where their local canals are and where they run yet all too often this is not the case. The difficulty is that they cannot place their local waterfront in any kind of context. Most will never have seen a waterways map. If this is true of the navigable system how much more this must be the case with canals under restoration. Even boaters coming to our stand at the shows often need a great deal of help to see where we are and what we are trying to do. Out here in Shropshire it is amazing how many people do not know where Lichfield is (I say just north of Birmingham) and certainly have no waterways awareness – I am also asked if I keep my boat nearby but have to gently point out that Ludlow and Craven Arms are not yet on the canal maps. (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)

Thus, as the Trust approaches the end of its second decade of existence, there remains a huge amount of work to be done. Staffordshire County Council has a wonderful leaflet entitled "Staffordshire, The Canal County". We must work hard to ensure that this embraces the canals which are under restoration as well as the operational tourist network. It is up to the Trust to put its message across clearly and unremittingly. When "events" cause setbacks we must always see the bigger picture and ensure that the resolution of the problem leads to better understanding and stronger and more amicable relationships. We do not have enemies but potential friends.

Brian Kingshott

Southern Bypass

There has been intense activity to try to resolve the problems posed by the current plans for the building of the new road along the southern edge of Lichfield. It has always been vital for the Trust to be able to use the footprint of the road as a route for the diverted section of the Lichfield Canal. The planning consent given by Lichfield District Council placed the scheme in severe jeopardy and the Trust has made strenuous efforts to have this revised. We made approaches politically at national and local levels and enlisted the support of IWA, The Waterways Trust and British Waterways among others.

BW, through the good offices of Tony Harvey at Fazeley, obtained guidance from B.V Grimley, based in Birmingham, who specialise in planning law. Their advice was that any challenge to the planning consent would be expensive and unlikely to succeed. At this point BW undertook to open discussions with Staffordshire County Council at the highest level to see if practical solutions could be found to routing the canal along the track of the new road. It was agreed that BW and SCC would work together to achieve this.

BW has assigned its own engineers to work on the project. This work is just beginning as we go to press. The Trust is supplying all relevant information and any other support required. While BW is resourcing the current work it is very likely that the Trust will have to find funds at a later stage.

Brian Kingshott

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.

VICE CHAIRMAN NOTES

LICHFIELD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Since last reporting on the Lichfield District Local Development Framework in CBW43 the final version has been published as the Submission Documents, October 2005 and a period allowed for public consultation. The Core Strategy document, Policy 9 Tourism includes: "The Local Development Framework will allow for ... the restoration of the Lichfield Canal by protecting a route" and the Core Strategy Diagram shows the "Lichfield Canal Safeguarded Route". The Trust is very pleased with this long-awaited protection and has supported the policy.

The Allocation of Land & Site Development Policies document includes Policy R3: Lichfield Canal Restoration: "The proposals for the full restoration of the Lichfield Canal are supported and the route shown on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded from any development that would prejudice the restoration of the canal. Opportunities will be sought to increase funding mechanisms through partnership initiatives and where appropriate through proposed developments that have a direct environmental, social and/or economic benefit from such restoration. Where facilities are required to service the increased use of the canal, these will be supported provided they are consistent with other policies and proposals of the Local Development Framework." Again, the Trust is pleased with and has supported the wording of this policy, but we have had to make a technical objection to the details of the protected route on two of the Inset Plans to the Proposals Map which are not sufficiently accurately drawn, veering off route through various fields and houses ! We don't want to cause any unnecessary alarm and corrected plans have been supplied.

To protect our position, the Trust has also formally objected to policies T1: Lichfield Southern Bypass and H1: Housing Strategy Site, North of Lichfield Southern Bypass. The former does include the requirement that: "The route and design of the Southern Bypass will need to take account of the proposals for the restoration of the Lichfield Canal", but in view of the current difficulties with the Bypass we are concerned that this is insufficient to ensure that the future Bypass extension and the associated housing is planned and designed in a co-ordinated way from the outset to include the necessary canal infrastructure to replace that which will be destroyed or made inaccessible.

An Examination will be held by an independent Inspector in April 2006 to hear the objections and to determine what changes should be made.

(continued over)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We regret to record the death of the following member:-

Mr. D. Cathells, Sheffield, died early 2005

VICE CHAIRMAN NOTES (continued)

Someone who clearly appreciates the importance of this major weakness in the planning system is David Heyes, MP for Ashton-under-Lyne who on 30th November introduced a 'ten minute rule' Bill in the Commons on the protection of Abandoned Inland Waterways. His speech referred to planning issues encountered by the Hol-
linwood Canal Society but also to the problem of the Lichfield Canal. Michael Fab-
ricant MP for Lichfield is one of the co-sponsors of the Bill. It seeks to make the
present guidance in PPG13 for local authorities to consult waterway bodies and to
protect the lines of disused waterways into requirements, which is clearly now
needed given the current attitude of Staffordshire County Council. The speech also
gave recognition to the work of volunteers including the Waterway Recovery Group
and "Navvies". The Bill was given an unopposed First Reading and the Second
Reading was set for 12th May. Although we understand that such Bills are rarely en-
acted, it served the purpose of highlighting the problem that local authorities can
act inconsistently and contrary to national policy, and it might just persuade the
Government to incorporate the principle of strengthened protection into other legis-
lation. The text of the speech in Hansard can be seen on the Parliamentary web-
site at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmhansrd.htm> . It could provide
you with more facts for the lobbying of other MPs to lend their support.

The Abandoned Waterways Bill was a helpful background to our meeting with the
Waterways Minister Jim Knight on 15th December, in the company of Michael Fab-
ricant. We were able to brief him on the problems brought about by Lichfield Dis-
trict and Staffordshire County Councils' granting planning permission for the new
road and the restrictions and additional expense it would cause for the restoration
of the Lichfield Canal. The Minister listened attentively and appeared sympathetic.
We explained that our purpose was to seek his support and informal assistance
with other departments.

Meanwhile, BW had arranged a high level meeting with the County for 20th Decem-
ber at which Central Shires General Manager Tony Harvey and Regeneration Direc-
tor Derek Cochrane met the SCC planning director and transport and highways
managers to try to find some pragmatic way out of the impasse. As a result SCC
and BW have agreed that their engineers will jointly examine ways of accommodat-
ing the canal into the Bypass plans, which is a most encouraging development, al-
though the financing of any construction work is yet to be resolved.

(continued over)

*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 NOTES (continued)

CAPPERS BRIDGE

Good progress is being made by the contractors McPhillips with our new canal bridge on Cappers Lane since their start on 10th October. Despite some bad weather causing delays of a few days the construction of the new bridge is progressing well with all the basic concrete structure in place, including the towpath wall, and the abutments and wing walls nearing completion ready for their brick facing. The initial excavation of the hole for the new bridge uncovered substantial remains of the previous brick bridge, virtually complete below towpath level and with part of the arch springing on the offside. At first glance it looked good enough to rebuild, but the brick walls were built straight onto clay with no foundations and the new position is a metre or two displaced to optimise the road alignment. However, the contractors have recovered 3 sections of cast iron fendering and some coping stones for us which we will be able to re-use elsewhere. It is expected that the main earthworks to build up the road approaches will start early in the New Year and the target date for completion remains as late March.

Phil Sharpe

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

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FUNDING NEWS

GRANTS

IWA

We are very grateful to the Inland Waterways Association, Lichfield Branch, for their continuing generosity with a grant of £400 towards new trees to be planted at restoration sites on the Lichfield Canal this season.

ERDF

An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands for an additional European Regional Development Fund grant of £25,000 to assist with a detailed engineering study for constructing the Hatherton Canal through the difficult new section at Churchbridge, Cannock.

BIG LOTTERY

THIS IS THE BIG ONE! An application has been submitted for a 75% grant under the new Living Landmarks scheme towards a project total of **£19,573,863** based on the ERDF-funded Feasibility Study of the Hatherton Canal undertaken for the Trust last year by Ove Arup & Partners.

Living Landmarks will support a small number of iconic schemes in various parts of the country with a minimum grant of £10million topped by minimum match funding of 25%. Key aims are learning, safety, and cohesion in the community which create opportunity and well being. Outcomes and priorities are quite specific with an accent on partnership working, excellence in design of the physical environment, encouraging best practice in construction and project management. This is an ideal opportunity to bring together leading authorities, contractors and volunteers in an outstanding way to revitalise under-used canals in the midlands as a landmark of Britain's waterways for the future.

Our bid is for the **I-CON Scheme, Hatherton Canal Project**, inter-connecting canals between Birmingham and Southern Staffordshire. This would be the first major phase for completing restoration of both the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals as links with the northern Birmingham Canal Navigations. But it goes further than that in promoting an "alliance" of interested parties to work together in bringing cohesion to a number of initiatives in the region where the canals provide environmental community links. It takes imagination to arrest industrial decline, bringing wasting assets back into productive use, whilst keeping a balance between traditional and futuristic principles.

The vitality of through boat and towpath traffic are believed to be necessary ingredients for enhancing the wide range of urban and rural communities across the project area. An initial decision will be made in April, successful candidates then being invited to go forward to a more detailed Stage 2 by January 2007 for a final decision the following June.

Bob Williams



Dains

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DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for
amounts over £20 from 1st October to 31st December 2005.**

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Land fund	Restoration fund
Derbyshire Carers Ass, Eric Wood talk	30.00		
Mr A D Culley (+ pledge £5 p.m.)		25.00	
Dr G T Whitfield (+ pledge £20 p.m.)		100.00	
Mr A R Wedge (with Prize Draw)	40.00		
Alan Parkes Design Ltd (draw 1 st prize)	150.00		
Mr J I R Horton		100.00	
Mr R T Willis; sale of aluminium cans	31.50		
Dr I M Thompson (talk fee)	50.00		
IWA, Stoke-on-Trent Branch	200.00		
Mr S Judge (with sub.)	25.00		
Rev A J G Cooper	50.00		
Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust	500.00		
Mr J A Carr (with sub.)	40.00		
Mr M Battisson (meeting room sponsor)	35.00		
Mr G Simonczyk (collection)	23.00		
Mr Brian Kingshott (donated expenses)	268.16		
Dr T Hollingworth	217.00		
Mr David Stanistreet (£30 x 3 months)		90.00	
Aggregated donations below £20 each	561.78		
Regular donors to appeals		423.00	95.00



**The Trust receives grant
assistance from the
European Regional
Development Fund**

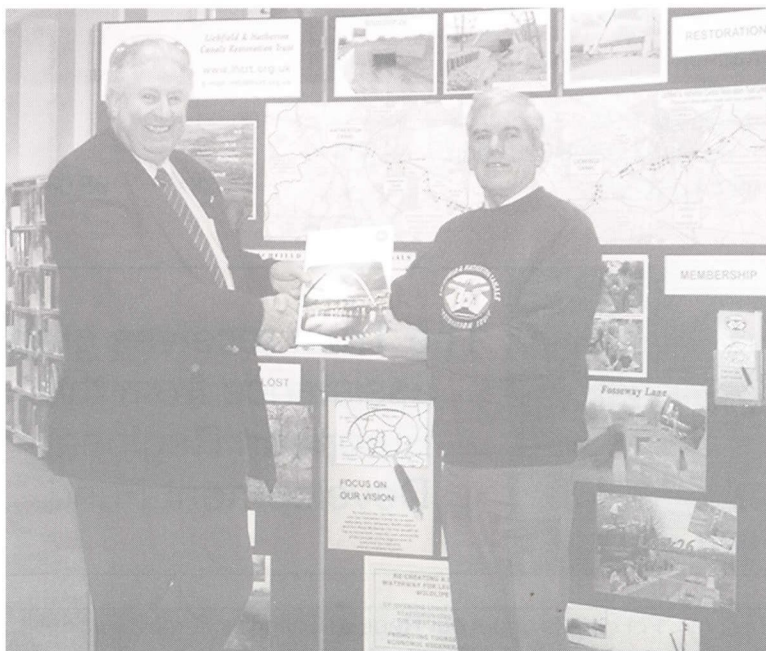
For details about our Regular Giving Scheme
contact Bob Williams Tel 01543 671427
Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, WS7 0JP

SUPPORT FOR HATHERTON CANAL LOTTERY BID

Visitors to Cannock Public Library during November could see a display about restoration of the Hatherton Canal which had carried away local coal to fuel the industrial revolution since 1841. Legally abandoned in the 1950s, and itself partly victim to coal mining, its decline was arrested by the LHCRT when plans for the new M6 Toll toll motorway became known.

The renowned actor and canal enthusiast David Suchet, the Trust's Vice-President, led an appeal which part-funded crossings during M6 Toll construction to preserve the canal's future route. As a result, a European grant of nearly £800,000 was awarded towards further restoration work. Now the Trust is making a bid for over £10million from the new Big Lottery Living Landmarks Fund to regenerate the historic Hatherton Canal. Not only would this bring environmental benefits but also stimulate tourism plans by local Councils and make greater use of the canal system north of Birmingham, recognised as more extensive than Venice.

Fred Pritchard, CEO of Cannock-based Pritchard Group is keen to see the Hatherton Canal revitalised as a major feature near their latest developments at Lakeside Plaza, Bridgtown. He said "£10million would go a long way to making the difference which we all want to achieve for this area".



Cannock property developer Fred Pritchard wishes Bob Williams success with Big Lottery Living Landmarks bid.(photo by Sue Williams)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 16th Annual General Meeting of The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd. will be held at **Whittington Village Hall, Main Street, Whittington**, near Lichfield, Staffordshire on **Friday 21st April 2006 at 7.15 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting 23/4/05
3. Matters Arising
4. Directors' Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2005
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Directors:
 - (a) Directors retiring by rotation and standing for re-election:
Philip Sharpe
Michael Smith
Susan Williams
 - (b) Any other nominations received
8. Appointment of Auditor:
West - Chartered Accountants
9. Any Other Business

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

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 2005 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.

After the AGM, tea and biscuits will be served
with an opportunity to view display and sales material.

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

DRAFT BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st December 2005

	31 December 2005		31 December 2004	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Freehold property at cost	49,686		49,686	
Improvements to canal land at Darnford (depreciated)	0		1,009	
Plant & Machinery (over £1,000 per item, depreciated)	10,644		0	
Investment in subsidiary company shares	2	60,332	2	50,697
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors				
Net assets held by Retail Trading subsidiary company	2,485		2,968	
G.O.W.M.: ERDF 10% retention (see footnote re 2001)	36,191		36,191	
Net Group VAT recoverable	575	39,251	2,480	41,639
Bank balances				
<i>Restricted funds:-</i>				
Lichfield Canal, Tamw'th Rd match funding (separate a/c)	1,494		1,005	
Brick Appeal funds, net of expenditure	370		1,153	
ERDF match funding suspense	12,637			
Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust grant (Attwood land fees)	1,000		1,000	
Manifold Trust grant balance	284		284	
Land Fund donations, net of expenditure	10,857		5,958	
Restoration Fund - general, net of expenditure	3,721		2,063	
- Chase Academy for Hatherton Canal	1,000		1,000	
- Page legacy for L.25&26 paddle gear	2,756		2,756	
- Ainge legacy for Tamworth Rd works	5,000			
<i>Designated funds:-</i>				
Restoration budget balance	4,191		2,324	
<i>Unrestricted funds:-</i>				
Trust funds for general purposes	47,690		5,457	
Total funds in deposit a/cs		91,000		23,000
Bank of Scotland, Trust current a/c	88		185	
Lloyds TSB, Trust current a/c	1,635		333	
Lloyds TSB, Marketing current a/c	358		544	
Funds in course of collection	30		0	
Total funds in current a/cs & in hand		2,111		1,062
Total assets before current liabilities		192,694		116,398
LIABILITIES:				
none		0		0
TOTAL NET RESOURCES		192,694		116,398
RESERVES: Income & Expenditure Account		192,694		116,398

NOTES:

ERDF claim re 2001 added to 10% retention (also GOWM debtor above)	7,596	
Outstanding grant from The Manifold Trust	33,000	33,000
Outstanding grant from IWA Restoration Committee for Attwood land	5,000	5,000
Net recovery of VAT for 2003	settled	37,935

This page and the following page are based on the Trust's accounts for 2005 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 31st December 2005

	2005		2004	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions from members (excl. Marketing below) ###		9,798		10,277
Donations:				
Land Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)	4,898		5,041	
Restoration Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)	6,658		6,077	
Received with subscriptions	3,606		3,322	
Other (excl. Marketing collections below)	6,766	21,928	8,599	23,039
Income generated by Marketing and Retail Trading:				
Trust & Public events	1,785		4,121	
Membership subscriptions collected at shows, etc. ###	1,644		1,529	
Brick Appeal	160		570	
Grand Prize Draw, net of expenditure	4,010		3,625	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements	4,061		4,496	
Profits from Retail Trading subsidiary company	2,485		2,469	
Sub-total ***	14,145		16,810	
less income transferred to Appeal Funds	0	14,145	(820)	15,990
Tax, interest, etc.:				
Gift Aid tax reclaim (other than specific Funds)	3,963		4,826	
Bank interest	1,541		1,682	
Wayleave for electricity line pole at Darnford	10	5,514	10	6,518
SUB-TOTAL REGULAR INCOME		51,385		55,824
Specific Appeal and Grants				
David Suchet Appeal (incl. Gift Aid tax)	767		2,491	
The Manifold Trust	0		8,000	
Others: (incl. IWA ResCom £5,000)	5,960		1,000	
European Regional Development Fund [ERDF]	0	6,727	210	11,701
TOTAL INCOME		58,112		67,525
EXPENDITURE				
Restoration costs				
Hatherton Canal	0		195	
Lichfield Canal	7,314		2,978	
Accommodation (wrg group visits)	2,136		575	
Tools, Plant, Machinery, Training	1,359	(10,809)	2,435	(6,183)
Operational costs				
Professional fees and costs	10,474		11,864	
Membership and magazine administration ###	4,342		4,356	
Direct cost of Marketing activity ***	2,859		3,910	
Direct cost of Funding Appeals	0		575	
General administration	3,000		3,412	
Insurance premium (IWA policy)	620		603	
Membership subscriptions (IWA, LDТА, PWG)	136		194	
Hire of hall for A.G.M.	35	(21,466)	21	(24,935)
Project costs				
Hatherton Canal	0		0	
Lichfield Canal	0		(1,775)	
ERDF works	1,000	(1,000)	428	1,347
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS ON TRUST ACTIVITIES		24,837		37,754
less Depreciation of canal improvements at Darnford and plant		(2,365)		(1,009)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		22,472		36,745
Refund of VAT from 2003 and 2004		53,824		
Retained Surplus brought forward		116,398		79,653
Retained Surplus carried forward		192,694		116,398

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

MARKETING REPORT

Autumn Fair 21st October

A new venture for the Marketing team which came about when booking the Guild Hall for the IWA AGM. Margaret Beardsmore was told that there was a cancellation on a Friday in November and were we interested? We needed only 12 stallholders to fill the room and thanks to the efforts of Margaret and Sue Williams we managed it comfortably. In addition the Trust provided refreshments and sold second-hand books and Trust merchandise. We had a good and varied collection of traders - jewellery, jams & marmalade, wood turning, paintings, pottery, handmade Christmas cards and fancy goods, family history, and boat handling tuition. A bonus was the wedding party upstairs, when they realised that we were selling teas and coffees we got an unexpected boost in trade! The result was a contribution of nearly £350 to the Trust's funds.

Black Country Evening 12th November

This proved to be a sell-out; in fact we were turning away requests for tickets right up to the last minute. Those that were lucky enough to get tickets were well entertained in their own Black Country way by David Bartley and his mate Alfie. In between the music was provided by the Onion Bargees. Add to this faggots and peas expertly prepared by Pat Barton and Terry Robertson, and a most enjoyable evening ensued. The event boosted the Trusts funds by over £1000. So well done and thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success, especially the aforementioned Pat & Terry, Trish Humphries and Mike Brown, and the Williams family for running the bar. Thanks also to all those who helped with setting up and clearing, before and after the entertainment.

SMART Van 8th October

The only other outing for the Marketing team in this period was with the SMART Van in the car park of the Co-op at Boley Park. Unfortunately the weather decided take a hand and we packed up mid afternoon, when it was apparent that any visitors to the store were going to take the quickest and driest route between car and store entrance and not divert past us. Nevertheless the morning session was useful; several shoppers stopped to ask what progress we were making and when did we expect to finish! And a number purchased draw tickets. Although curtailed by the weather it was a useful experiment and proved the usefulness of the SMART Van. We have plans to repeat this in other locations along the canal route.

A new member of the Marketing team is George Simonczyk and his enquiries have led to the Trust having displays in the Cannock and Heath Hayes libraries. This is an incentive we wish to follow up in other local libraries in order to make the maximum use of the display boards. George's local knowledge of the Cannock area has proved useful in many other ways as well.

(continued over)

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

Other activities

Trish Humphries has been working to persuade various publicans to place L&H collection boxes on their bars. The results have been mixed but one has produced a return beyond our expectations. The Round House at Gailey has yielded a magnificent £180 in just half a year. The Boat at Penkridge produced a further £24. Do you think your 'local' might be persuaded to have a collection box; if so please contact David Moore on 01543 432718.

2005 in retrospect

Last year the marketing team attended some 22 events ranging from 3 hours at Drayton Manor Park with the Staffordshire Tourist Board to the 9 days spent at the NEC, exhibiting at the Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show. This means on average we were out with display every other weekend throughout the year. My rough calculations equate this to 38 days and about 225 man days for the team, excluding planning, setting up, breakdown and travel. For a small team I think this represents a tremendous effort and I am deeply grateful to all of them for their dedication to the cause, and we could do more, with your help. How about making your resolution for 2006 to have a go, get out with the team and help promote our canals. There could be some exciting times ahead for the Trust; be part of it.

David Moore Marketing Director



Black Country Evening audience (photo by Sue Williams)



A busy autumn fair in Lichfield Guild Hall
(Photo by Sue Williams)



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PRIZE DRAW WINNERS!

Congratulations to all the lucky winners in the Grand Prize Draw for 2005 whose tickets were pulled out of the bag at our Black Country Entertainment event in Whittington on 12th November. We were very pleased that Nina Dawes, Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council, was again present to draw the winners under the scrutiny of an audience of 120.

It has been another good year for ticket sales with many members selling to family, friends or fellow-workers. Our special thanks go to 1st prize sponsors Alan Parkes and Stephen Mills. A total of £4,200 has been added to our funds.

The lucky winners were:-

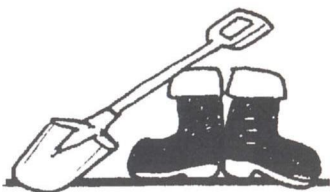
1. £250.00 cash donated by Alan Parkes Design Ltd, Lichfield and
Dr Stephen F Mills PhD, Milford, Stafford,
No.09197 Mr John Trickey, Sutton Coldfield, W.Mids.
2. £100.00 holiday voucher donated by Robert Broad Travel, Lichfield,
No.03777 Miss B I Muncey, Enfield, Middlesex.
3. Vanity case with £50 Oriflame products donated by Sue Williams,
No.00086 Mrs Mavis Pee, Bloxwich, Walsall.
4. 12 months magazine subscription donated by Waterways World,
No.07539 Mr G S Randall, Cannock, Staffs.
5. National Trust gift worth £20 donated by David Wheeler, Devon,
No.10962 Mr D J Mills, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.
6. Framed cross-stitch picture of Gas Street Basin by Abacus Designs,
No.09800 Mr P D Coombs, Coalville, Leicestershire.
7. Choice of video or DVD volume from Laurence Hogg Productions,
No.03969 Mr C Bird, Kinver, Stourbridge, West Midlands.
8. Limited edition L & H historic "Darnford Nut" paperweight,
No.14163 Mr A O Dick, Ranton, Stafford.
9. Selection of L & H promotional products,
No.05679 Mr W B Brown, Weston, Bath.

A new Prize Draw will start in February 2006 with another selection of valuable prizes to be won, helping the Trust with the continuing demand for fund-raising. Tickets will be on sale from February and will be offered to members with the Spring edition of "Cut Both Ways" due out in May.

Bob Williams Draw Promoter

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HATHERTON CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

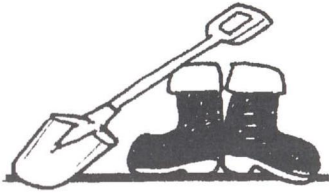
Autumn came late this year and the hedges and grass continued growing well into November, necessitating an extension of our towpath maintenance season so as to get it all in order for the winter. We did find time in October to remove some sapplings from the canal bed above the Roman Way and also some concrete fence posts previously thrown in from under the bridge. Our mid-week team has helped us keep on top of the mowing and our monthly work party has attracted consistently good attendances of 10 or 12 volunteers. November saw the final session of maintenance and a start on construction work, building up the narrow and sloping sections of the towpath between Saredon Mill and Oak Lane by barrowing in some of the old dredgings spoil. This work was continued in December and has already made a real difference to this awkward section of path, but will need another session in January to finish it off. After that there is another, although shorter, section near Cats Bridge to do and several sections of invasive or overhanging offside trees which need more cutting back.

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 details of meeting places.

Work Party Dates: Sundays; 19 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June.



Channel showing division to support towpath at Cappers Bridge
(Photo by Bob Williams)



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

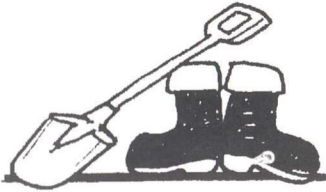
A productive period of work at Tamworth Road from October to December has seen us make good progress with rebuilding the canal walls in the garden, recovering buried stones, hedgelaying and further excavation of Lock 24.

Much of the brickwork on the towpath wall through the garden has now been completed, as far as the missing section where the stones were buried, thanks to dedicated bricklaying by our volunteers and some assistance from London WRG in October. However, the top coping course has been left until the concreting and backfilling is done to avoid any damage to it. The offside wing wall below Lock 25 was also finished. Feeding the bricklayers has required cleaning thousands of reclaimed old bricks, and these plus many thousands of new ones have all had to be moved and stacked, some more than once ! A visit from some Ash Tree Boat Club members in November helped with the cleaning, despite the awful weather. A start has also been made on completing the gaps in the wing walls above Lock 26, with concreted and reinforced foundations and the bricklaying progressing well. The cache of quoin and coping stones above Lock 26 were recovered at the end of October thanks to the loan of a 13 tonne excavator by Chasetown Civil Engineering and the pit was then backfilled, although bridging this gap with a new section of towpath wall will be left awhile until it has had more time to consolidate.

Removing the 4 small trees growing in Lock 24 was delayed by a late leaf-fall until November, when we also planted some 250 mixed hawthorn and other hedging plants to fill gaps in the towpath hedge behind the garden and down towards the A38, and to create a new hedge around the landscaped 'triangle' area below Lock 25. Once the trees were out we were able to resume excavation of the main chamber of Lock 24 with the long-reach capacity of our new JCB804 and the manoeuvrability of the loaned WRG red dumper proving an effective combination. The work was slowed by the need to recover the very large quantities of bricks in the spoil and by uncovering some more large coping stones, all just demolished into the lock chamber when it was infilled nearly 40 years ago. The remains of the offside wall are in fairly good condition, so far, but the towpath side has some large holes in it. However, the weather turned very wet in early December and the surface of the towpath which we needed for access was deteriorating so a temporary halt was called to the excavation pending drier, or freezing, conditions.

(continued over)

Press Date for Cut Both Ways 47 is 5th April



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Numerous other jobs in the period have included pointing in Lock 25, vegetation maintenance, surveying and, less productively, the removal of graffiti from the new brickwork below Lock 24 and a visit to Fossey Lane to retrieve and repair vandalised safety fencing at Lock 18.

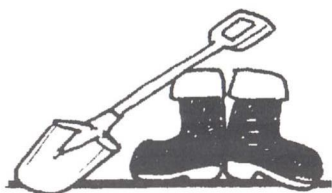
We are very pleased that the Dig Deep groups have renewed their commitment to supporting our work at Tamworth Road with 7 weekend work party visits between February and October 2006, two each from LWRG, NWPG and KESCRG, and one from WRG BITM (translations on application !). WRG have also given us a 9 day Canal Camp at Easter this year, so we should be able to maintain the momentum of the restoration. However, we start the year with a joint visit from WRGNW (Waterway Recovery Group Northwest) and Essex WRG in January to Fossey Lane where we hope to plant about 250 yards of new towpath hedge and clear a lot of scrub.

We have been well supported again this last quarter by our regular volunteers with at least 24 different people helping, not including the visiting groups. Many thanks to them all – you know who you are! But a lot of work falls on those of us who are there most Saturdays and Sundays including Brian, Dave, Keith, Clive and myself, so some extra help, however occasional, would be much appreciated.

(Continued over)



Brian adds some new courses to the rebuilt towpath wall through the garden
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

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. Look out for the new yellow sign. We are working almost every Sunday now, except for the third Sunday of the month (which is on the Hatherton) when the advertised date is on the Saturday, although we are usually there on the other Saturdays as well. Our own work parties are supplemented by WRG and 'Dig Deep' weekend visits. We generally work from about 9 am to 4 pm and more help is always welcome, even if you can spare only a few hours. Check for additional dates or the latest plans with Phil Sharpe on 01889 583330 or Peter Matthews on 01543 318933, or visit our web site where any changes will be shown.

Work Party Dates:

February: London WRG Sat/Sun 4/5, Sunday 12, Saturday 18, Sunday 26
 March: Sunday 5, Newbury WPG Sat/Sun 11/12, Saturday 18, Sunday 26
 April: Sunday 2, Kent & East Sussex CRG Sat/Sun 8/9,
 WRG Canal Camp Sat 8 – Mon 17, Sunday 23, Sunday 30
 May: Newbury WPG Sat/Sun 6/7, Sunday 14, Saturday 20, Sunday 28
 June: London WRG Sat/Sun 3/4, Sunday 11, WRG BITM Sat/Sun 17/18,
 Sunday 25



Trust and London wrg volunteers rebuilding the towpath wall
 (Photo by Phil Sharpe)

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Membership Secretary	Trevor Morris	☎ 0121 354 7952
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