

The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

Issue 48 Summer 2006



Sue Williams receives a cheque from Sonia Rolt on behalf of Brauston Marina with Tim Coghlan and Bob Williams looking on
(Photo by LHCRT)

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I finished last time by mentioning the very considerable challenges which the Trust currently faces in Lichfield. I am sorry that, in the best traditions of Dr Who, I created a cliff-hanging end which I must now try to resolve. Sadly, unlike the writers of science fiction I cannot choose my own story line or painlessly send monsters into the voids of space. It is now almost a year since the major difficulties of getting the Lichfield Canal under the Birmingham Road riding tandem with the bypass turned from problem to crisis. During this year Trust Directors have worked with great diligence to find engineering solutions which can be afforded.

Since the last issue of Cut Both Ways we have worked with Staffordshire Highways to take matters forward. The most heartening aspect of these discussions has been the good relationships which we have built up with several departments at Stafford. If goodwill alone could solve our problems we would now be home and dry. However, we have to enter proper legal and financial agreements with the County and, as ever, the devil is in the detail. As I write these notes in early July we seem to be close to completion but discussions continue and there is good prospect of success. The Highways engineers now understand that the Trust needs to achieve a viable road crossing and have agreed to incorporate this into their designs. Persimmon have agreed to vary their work programme to give time for the new design work to be prepared. Wrekin Construction, who will build the culvert have submitted an price and also fully understand what is required.

Inevitably, finance is a major factor at both ends of any deal. The Trust must be sure that it can afford the very high costs, once they have been agreed, and must also satisfy its lenders that it will be able to meet all its commitments. We will not have final answers to these questions until this magazine has gone to press. All that I can do is to reassure members that Directors will press for the best deal possible and will not enter financial commitments which the Trust cannot meet. Income to the new Suchet Appeal has been very strong and we are grateful to supporters from all corners of the country who have again shown such generosity and support. Much more is still needed and so, if you have hesitated to make a donation, please now come forward and help.

Meanwhile the routine work of the Trust continues. On the Hatherton we are keeping an eye on proposals to carry out major works on the M6 and now the M54. Getting the canal through the obstruction caused by the M6 on the Straight Mile at Calf Heath has always been one of our major challenges. There are 3 possible methods proposed for widening the motorway and the Trust would benefit most from a total rebuild which would give the opportunity of installing a navigable culvert. Meanwhile there are plans to extend the M54 to the M6 northbound and this will also require our close attention. We will continue to press our case with the authorities but will stress that we are only safeguarding the interests of the Trust and not opposing road schemes per se.

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

The long-awaited Arup Report on the Hatherton is now in the hands of the Trust. We should now have a much clearer idea of how this canal can be restored. The delay has been most unfortunate but the report will still be a valuable resource for the restoration. In an ideal world we would commission complete sets of reports on both canals. These would be very expensive and all our resources are currently committed to the Lichfield Bypass. Ultimately this will have to be done.

Finance will be a major preoccupation over the coming months and years. The priority has to be funding the road crossing but we will try to keep our other activities moving forward. It is important to keep the work at Tamworth Road going to complete our commitment to "Dig Deep". We also have funds committed specifically to land purchase. We will continue talking to landowners and investigate all the opportunities to acquire the track wherever we can. For the moment we will have to tread carefully but we will be able to purchase some very small areas which we need along the Lichfield Bypass.

It now seems a long time since we celebrated the reopening of Cappers Bridge and we continue to receive good reports about the impact of the new structure, both visually and practically. However, we have had a recent reminder of our celebrations when we had apologies from two of our councillors whose postal invitations were delivered over two months late. This has its comical aspects but could easily have undermined the goodwill we try to generate on these occasions by apparently snubbing two valued supporters. It is not surprising that e-mail is now heavily used in preference to surface mail.

Let us hope that we can soon be celebrating the commissioning of the new culvert in Lichfield. When this happens we will already be looking forward to taking the canal onward to London Road where it can rejoin its old route to continue down Tamworth Road. Early discussions with Staffordshire Highways and consultations with our own engineers show that we can find a viable route through another difficult area.

Again, we have much to do and great tasks to perform. We must not doubt our ability to overcome our present difficulties and move on to complete our restoration project. If we have any doubts we should pause on the A5 east of Brownhills and look at the aqueduct which once seemed an impossible dream.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to one of our Patrons, Chris Coburn, on being awarded an MBE. He deserves it for services to L & H alone.

Brian Kingshott

Press Date for Cut Both Ways 49 is 5th Oct

Cappers Bridge Encore

When we reopened Cappers Bridge we were pleased that we could re-use one of the original name plates and also install a replica moulded from the original. At the time we lost sight of the provenance of the original plate which had been given to the Trust by local resident, John Godson. We are now very happy to put the record straight. What follows is John's own account.

"I grew up in Fosseway, Lichfield and spent many happy years in the 1960s playing near the sadly crumbling Lichfield canal network. I knew the canal well from Shaw's Bridge within the grounds of Pipe Place Farm, the Ogley 3rd Flight locks between Wall Lane and Fosseway Lane and, in particular, the Sandfields section to the Birmingham Road. This provided a great vantage point to see the steam locomotives in the last days of steam haulage. My cycle travels then took me further afield to explore other sections of the Lichfield Canal down to Watery Lane Bridge.

Even at that time, in the mid 1960s only a few bridge name plates remained and the Cappers Bridge bridge sign was only just hanging from the brickwork. Rather than letting it fall into the stagnant and murky waters beneath, and be lost for ever, my friend, David Robinson who also came from Fosseway and I decided to rescue it. We then transported it by foot in several stages back to Fosseway where it was to remain safely stored in my father's shed. When we eventually moved house it was moved to another shed on Boley Park

In the late 1990s, the work of the Restoration Trust was brought to my attention by displays at the local library and in Lichfield itself. I felt that it was the right time therefore to donate the original bridge plate to the Trust and at the same time, to become a member. I am very proud that this original plate has been restored thus adding a degree of authenticity to the modern reconstruction of Cappers Bridge."



John Godson
at Cappers Bridge
(photo by Godson)

Make your own Boatwoman's Bonnet



Kits available from Sue Williams

01543 671427

and on the Trust website

www.lhcrt.org.uk

£26.95 (includes p&p)

full instructions and

all materials included

for fabric designs see website

(or phone Sue to request a leaflet)

also available in plain blue and plain white

All profits to aid the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals restoration

FUNDING NEWS

BIRMINGHAM ROAD CULVERT

It seems to be a strange fact of life that cost estimates only get revised upwards! Since our report in the last issue, the funding needed for the new Birmingham Road culvert has increased by £30,000 to £490,000, but there are elements in that which were not included before. Positive progress has been made with formalities:- Staffordshire County Council are finalising the required legal Agreement under Section 278, Highways Act 1980 where we need to pay £420,000 immediately, followed by the remainder in stages over six months.

Documentation is more or less in place with The Charity Bank Ltd for a 25-year loan of £255,000, secured by a mortgage over Trust property.

Venturesome Ltd need to be assured that an unsecured loan up to £70,000 to pre-finance the David Suchet Appeal can be repaid in the short term.

Other cash resources are being marshalled but there is still a gap which we are anxious to close before making an irrevocable commitment.

DAVID SUCHET APPEAL

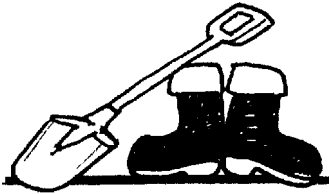
The ambitious target of £250,000 for about half the cost of the Birmingham Road culvert (above) has attracted an excellent early response. So far, 370 contributors have donated over £26,000 in cash. A further £9,000 in pledges and £8,500 in Gift Aid tax recovery will come in over the next two years or so. Whilst we are very grateful for these, the high costs NOW mean we would still like to hear from the doubters!

Donors of £100 or more receive a dedicated scroll, whilst those giving £1,000 are granted Life Membership. Leaflets were sent with the last issue, or just write to the Finance Director: you can even pay online through our website – see back page for details.

GRAND PRIZE DRAW

£2,500 received so far, so please keep those tickets coming in for the November draw.

Bob Williams Director (Finance)



HATHERTON CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

APRIL – There was very rapid spring growth early in the month and our regular mid-weekers, Chris and Dick Mantle, were not available due to family commitments. Peter Freakley and yours truly put in two sessions with mechanical equipment prior to work party weekend on Sunday 16th to keep on top of things. As consequence I had the pleasure of telling our regular volunteers they could have a lie-in on the Sunday morning as the job was done!

MAY – Sunday 18th saw eight regulars make an early start cutting back towpath and hedge growth from Cats Bridge to the M6 motorway embankment. Again fully mechanised which allowed us to finish at lunch time and escape the rain which had persisted all morning.

JUNE – On Sunday 11th June Peter Freakley and I did an extra stint, cutting back towpath growth from the Roman Way through to Cats Bridge – in very hot weather.

Our regular work party on Sunday 18th June saw six fully mechanized bods cut path and hedges from Cats Bridge through to the M6. All now easily walkable and pleased to report that the post and rail barriers which we erected in the spring seem to be doing the job of deterring horse riders from using the towpath.

At this time of year I do not call out all our available volunteers. I find that if we have six to eight fully mechanized bods we can cope comfortably with the workload, particularly if we have had an additional mid-week session. I know that those advised “not required” appreciate the opportunity to do other things.

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; 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December.

Denis Cooper

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.

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust
& Lichfield Cruising Club

Invite you to join them for the **HUDDLESFORD BOAT GATHERING** **Saturday 23rd September 2006**

at Lichfield Cruising Club
Huddlesford Junction on the Coventry Canal



Everyone Welcome
(come by boat, car or on foot)
and please bring your friends
(plenty of free on-site car parking)



Boat entry is free. Traders and exhibitors £17.63 (inc VAT)
Call Sue Williams (01543 671427) for entry forms
or email info@lhcr.org.uk

Open to the public from 10am – 4pm

TRADE & CRAFT STALLS
CAKE STALL BOOK STALL BRIC-A-BRAC
LICHFIELD DIOCESAN MOBILE BELFRY
GAMES & BOUNCY CASTLE
And much more probably!
COFFEE / TEA AND LICENSED BAR
AVAILABLE IN THE CRUISING CLUB
ALL DAY BARBECUE

Saturday Night Entertainment in the Marquee

Tickets available on the day or in advance from Sue Williams.
Call 01543 671427 to book

Proceeds to go to the restoration of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals



The partly exposed Lock 24 before the Canal Camp in April
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)



The excavated chamber of Lock 24 at the end of the Canal Camp
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)

MARKETING REPORT

Cut Both Ways 47 reported on the opening of the rebuilt Cappers Bridge. This marked a significant step forward in our aim of recreating the navigation between the Coventry Canal at Huddlesford and the Birmingham Canal Navigations at Brownhills. The Marketing Group was out in strength to ensure that the event went off to everyone's satisfaction. The reception and the Trust's Annual General Meeting were held in Whittington Village Hall which presented an opportunity to invite many of the local groups to join us in our celebrations. It was also a way to say thank you to the residents of the village for all the inconvenience they had had to put up with during the construction of the bridge. It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile exercise and many new friends were made. There have been several favourable comments about the bridge and one often sees people leaning over the parapet looking and perhaps wondering when they will see boats passing underneath. The Marketing Group was involved with the arrangements both at the hall and at the bridge and I am very grateful to all who helped to make the day a success.

Last time I said that we were preparing for the season of outdoor festivals and rallies; well we are now in the thick of it. We have already attended several events and most weekends in July are booked. The initial showing is not good. Events so far have had to contend with the FA Cup Final and a certain football competition in Germany (about which nothing more will be said) and our income has suffered. We are way down on the position at this time last year.

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Trust stand at the medieval market.
(Photo by Sue Williams)

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

Moira Festival on 13th & 14th May (which clashed with the Cup Final on the Saturday) was particularly disappointing. The only sales were some flower baskets donated by Pat Magee and all of these went to members of our own team. Thanks to Bob & Sue, Mike & Bobbie Battisson, Trish, Mavis and Peter Magee for towing the SMART van.

At May Bank Holiday our **Crick Boat Show** team had to contend with a major fire at an industrial estate close to the festival site and the closing of many of the roads to allow emergency vehicles to attend. The canal was a major source of water for the attending appliances and the main approach road from the motorway was closed to allow a pipe line to be laid. Special mention must be made to Trish Humphries who persevered for 6 hours to travel from home to the site. In previous years the show organisers have been able to pass over a portion of the profits to those charities attending. However, because of the problems and the resulting lower attendance, it has not been possible this year, so for us the event will just break even. All who attended deserve credit for their perseverance and dedication, Rob, Bob, Sue, Mavis and Trish.

Bank Holiday Monday saw Trish out again setting up our display at the **Lichfield Bower**. No fires or other disasters threatened here; instead she had to compete with the elements as torrential rain and a mini hurricane threaten to wash out the event. This was the first outing of our new larger marquee and it was put to good use as twice as many people were able to shelter under it, and in doing so they came within range of our draw ticket sellers. Trish was helped at this event by Mike and Bobbie, Hilary Smith, Bev & Paul Marshall, Jean & Terry Brown, Barry Kenn, George Simonczyk, Lynn Evans, Peter Lee and Kathryn Humphries

Historic Boats at Braunston is always a colourful and very interesting occasion and as usual we had a stand there. Sales were slow but thanks to some substantial donations we made an acceptable profit, albeit that some of the donations would have come in anyway. We were hopeful that our new line of boatwomen's bonnet kits would have sold well but although we had several enquiries we had only one actual sale. It takes time for the news to pass around and we are hopeful that this line will prove profitable for us. If you are interested in this venture please see our advert elsewhere in this magazine. Thanks here are due to Bob & Sue Williams and May Brown for getting all the bonnet kits ready.

Brownhills Canal Festival is a good local day out and our stand attracted its fair share of attention. We came home with over £200 from the sale of Trust items plus selected bric-a-brac. The team here was Barry Kenn, George Simonczyk, Keith Grice, Trish Humphries, Mavis and I. Both this show and the Braunston event ended earlier than usual on the Sunday due to the football match we were not going to mention!

(contined over)

Jazz Night

with the Caldon Canal Stompers
on Saturday November 11th, 7.30 for 8pm
at Whittington Village Hall. Licenced Bar,
non-members welcome.

Tickets £12
including home-cooked hot supper,

available from Sue Williams (01543 671427)
or Dave Moore (01543 432718) or email info@lhcr.org.uk.
Grand Prize Draw winners will be drawn during the evening.

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

The team also mounted a display in the foyer of **Lichfield Library** for two weeks in May and are investigating having a display in several sites in Cannock in the autumn.

Also in this issue are details of our **Autumn Fair** which follows our successful event last year. Unfortunately we could not get the Guildhall so it will be at the Boley Park Community Hall, Lichfield on **Saturday 21st October**. We are trying to get a good range of traders and bookings are coming in steadily. However, if you know of someone who might be interested in taking a stall, please let Sue Williams know. But don't forget we have the **Huddlesford Gathering** on **Saturday 23rd September** and some may prefer to come there.

We will still have some events planned to take place after you receive this issue, so there is still time to help. Please contact me or any member of the Marketing team if you would like to get involved. And to get rid of that final bit of energy, don't forget our **Jazz Evening** on **Saturday November 11th** at Whittington Village Hall.

Members will be pleased to hear that Mike Brown is recovering well after his recent spell in hospital and we hope to see him out and about again soon.

Dave Moore

AUTUMN FAIR

SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER 2006

10am – 4pm

at BOLEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
RYKNILD STREET, LICHFIELD

ADMISSION FREE

**Cake stall
Refreshments
Book stall
Jewellery
Coats of Arms
“Posh Coffee”
Craft Stalls
Christmas Gifts
Paintings
Bric a Brac**

Contact Sue Williams for more information

**Phone 01543 671427 or
email info@lhcert.org.uk**

New Members upto 4th July 2006

Mr T.Flower, Dover	Mrs A.I.Brown, Penn, Wolverhampton
Mrs R. Taplin, Rugeley	Mr C.J.Brazier, Mazarron, Murcia, Spain
Mrs Gibson, Lichfield	Mr D.A.Tarrant, Castle Donington
Mr R.N.Hodgson, Stafford	Mr J.C.S.Ford, Gisleham, Lowestoft
Mr C.J.Foster, Rye	Mrs Tunnicliffe, Moseley, Birmingham
Mrs I.J.Long, Dawlish	Mr B.L.Tunnicliffe, Moseley, Birmingham
Mrs J.Fowler, Reigate	Mr A.Greenwood, Sevenoaks, Kent
Mr S.G.Turner, Water Orton	Dr B.H.Latimer, Englefield Green, Surrey
Mrs M.L.Dale, Tamworth	Mr F.G.Van Camp, Bromley, Kent
Mr R.Tomkins, Brownhills	Mrs C.M.Cox, Sutton Coldfield
Mr A.B.Cordingley, Neath	Mr R.A.Draper, East Grinstead Sussex
Mr J.Moreton, Ashford, Kent	Mrs P.V.Greenwood, Sevenoaks, Kent
Miss J.L.Price, Stafford	Mr and Mrs V.Fletcher, Halesowen
Mr K.Watson, Willenhall	Mr and Mrs J.Green, Gosport
Mr B.Castle, Marlborough	Mr D.Feltham, Rusholme, Manchester
Mr P.Marrs, Aintree	Mr A.Lewis,Higham Ferrers, Northants
Mr A.Blunt, Kenilworth	Ms V.A.Ransom, Newton Abbott
Mr D.Finnigan, Sandy, Beds.	Mr L.King, Chadwick End, Solihull
Mr M.Albutt, Codsall	Mr V.P.Turton, Burntwood, Staffs
Mrs Yates, Brownhills	Mr D.K.Mouny, Birmingham B33
Mr J.H.Bradshaw, Wychnor	Mr J.Shaw, Amington, Tamworth
Mrs A.Page, Gt. Wyrley	Mrs B.Turton, Burntwood, Staffs
Mr G.Yates, Brownhills	Mr C. Morgan-Cettler Warwick
Mr K.Aldred, Colchester	Mr & Mrs D.Yapp, Burntwood, Staffs.
Mr M.Coombs, Bideford	Mrs B.Kneller, Billericay, Essex
Mrs S.Watson, Willenhal	Ms J. SHeppard, Churchill, Oxon.
Mr S.Kneller,Billericay, Essex	Mr & Mrs M.W.Price, Stafford
Mr J.Abbott, Hednesford	Mr J.Goodwin, Pipehill, Lichfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We regret to record the loss of the following members:-

Mr H Scott, Rotherham, died 27th February 2006.

Mr J H King, Walton-on-Thames, died in a canal accident 22nd May 2006.

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).

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for
amounts over £20 from 16th April to 30th June 2006.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Restoration & Land fund
Colton Produce Guild (talk)	40.00	
Aldridge History Society (talk)	35.00	
Whittington & District History Society (talk and further donation)	50.00	
Chase Terrace Ladies Club (talk)	30.00	
The late Dave Simkins memorial	540.45	
Miss G M Branson (with sub.)	35.00	
Mr & Mrs H H Olley	30.00	
Nat. Women's Register, Lichfield (talk)	29.21	
Mr D H Christie (with sub.)	50.00	
Mr V J Fletcher	50.00	
Dr E Pringle (with sub.)	35.00	
Lamb family legacy	200.00	
Mr A Marr	50.00	
Mr J N Potts (with sub.)	100.00	
Mr R J Buckler (with sub.)	30.00	
Mr Brian Kingshott (donated expenses)	300.45	
Mrs K M Stanier (part with sub.)	44.00	
Mr J Lamming (with sub.)	50.00	
Mr & Mrs P R Swindale (with sub.)	55.00	
Morris Ground Golfing Socty (with sub.)	25.00	
Mr & Mrs B Spencer (with sub.)	28.00	
Mr A P Hopkins	50.00	
Mr F Kelley (with sub.)	25.00	
Mr J M Smith (with advance sub.)	24.00	
Mr J W Farren (with sub.)	50.00	
Mr M T Jelley		35.00
Mr David Stanistreet		90.00
Regular donors to appeals		338.00
Aggregated donations below £20 each	251.18	

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



Trust stand at Brownhills Canal Festival
(Photo by LHCRT)

**We gratefully acknowledge the following for their donations
over £20 to the David Suchet Appeal**

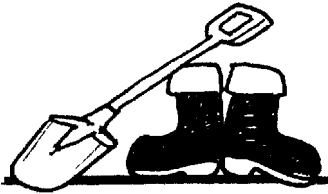
Mr & Mrs N F Fletcher	Mr L J Usher	Mr C J Foster
Mr D Hodges	Mr M J Beare	Mr W B Brown
Mr G Danbury (pledge)	Mr P C Cleveland	Mr R J Fenton
Mr T T Morris	Mr K J Critchley	Mr D J Spinks
Mr B J Rees	Mr H Matraves	Mr P Jequier
Mr D Fryer-Kelsey	Mr R W Naulls	Mr A C Porter
Mr J C Dodwell (part pledge)	Mr B L Tunncliffe	Mr G G Oldham
Rolandon Securities Limited	Mr C D Coyle	Mr J Moreton
Miss J Fowler (part pledge)	Mr A J Fox	Mr A Scott
Mr J A Finch (part pledge)	Mr K E Gibson	Mr D J Gooding
Mr A Norgrove	Mr C W Groves	Mr C Lunnon
Mr R J Buckler (part pledge)	Mr P T Smith	Mr R C Everett
Mr D A Read	Mr O F G Butler	Mr C J Talbot
Mr L A Walker	Mr R D Hardwick	Dr P R Gregory
Mrs S M Cooke	Mr R T Willis	Mr R Pipe
Mr B D Castle (part pledge)	Dr B Beagley	Mr J Langley
Mr J T A Morris	Mr D J Barnard	Mr T Carter
Mr C Dunn	Mr D K Mounty	Mr K J Aldred
Mr J L Norton	Mr B C Smith	Mr D J Redwood
IWA, Western Region	Mr F Alcock	Mr S King
Mr & Mrs D J Brabner	Mr A C Porter	Mr W A Stephens
Mr & Mrs N F Fletcher	Mrs T Samson	Dr G D Hawkes
Mr & Mrs J Green (pledge)	Mr P T Matthews	Mr A P Arnold
IWA Stoke-on-Trent Branch	Mr A Pearson	Mr D J Bridge
Crew of nb."INGRID" 8-22 May 2006	Mr J C Boydell	Mr W H Peters
Mr G L Blackmore	Mr R Birch	Mr A F Skellern
Mr G A Wootten	Mr K M Ashford	Mr D A Grobecker
Mr D F Botham	Mr R W Lloyd-Hart	Cllr T J Thomas
Mr R G W Brunstrom	Mr J W Harrison	Mr G J Nicholson
Mr C J Bird (pledge)	Mr W Tallis	Mr N Sutcliffe
Mr J Whitehouse	Mr R Bailey (pledge)	Mr N M Waring
Mr B L Whittaker	Mr M Hanes	Dr L J Williams
Mr R H Hayward (pledge)	Mr R J Chapman	Mr R A Draper
Mr J A Walker (pledge)	Mrs H P Parry	Mr D F Shotbolt
IWA Warwickshire Branch	Miss D M Skilbeck	Mr D Dixon
Dr M J West and Reeve family	Dr R W S Brooks	Mr A M Revington
Mr J W Farren (with sub.)	Mr A D Culley	Dr J R Massy
Mr D Hoblyn (pledge)	Mr J H Henbury	Mr K A Morris
Mr S Matthews (pledge)	Mr E P Glover	Mr C M Jones
Mr L B Houghton (part pledge)	Mr M A R Butler	Mr J C Clode

**We gratefully acknowledge the following for their donations
over £20 to the David Suchet Appeal**

Dr G T Whitfield (part pledge)	Mr J M Hoare	Mr R A Smith
Miss V A Ransom (part pledge)	Mr W R Coburn	Mr D P Owen
Rev G R Richens (part pledge)	Mr R T White	Mr G M Robbins
Mr H A F Radley	Mrs M Pearse	Mr R K Clowsley
Mr D C Everett	Mr M C Faulkner	Mr D M Austen
Mr R D Ingleby (part pledge)	Mr E M Loy	Mr J C Cowie
The Pam & Robin Chase Trust Fund	Mr S W Clarke	Mrs C L Williams
Mr S P Shackleton	Mr E Harris	Mrs M A Wallace
Mr I Edgar MBE (part pledge)	Mr P B Gwinnett	Mr R L Harley
Mr I Burnage, Streethay Wharf	Mr A F Ireland	Mr J P Lucas
Mr J G Rowbotham (pledge)	Mr V P Turton	Mr D J L Ward
Dr J L Bonsall (part pledge)	Mrs J D Allison	Mr T Liddiard
Mr J K W Pearse	Mr I D Christie	Mr J E Rackham
Braunston Marina Ltd	Mr R Ross	Preb. I B Cook
Mr D A Wight (pledge)	Mr N D Lye	Mr P H Ogdan
Mr D L Moore (pledge)	Mrs A D Fox	Mr A L Lewis
IWA Hertfordshire Branch	Mr W H Cole	Mr G G Oldham
IWA London Region	Mr G Browne	Mr R H Derrick
Mr S B Wheat (pledge)	Leigh Willows	Mr S V Brown
Mr & Mrs A V H Gulvin	Mr D B Halsey	Mr M J Yeomans
Mr P A Forshaw	Mr P M Scott	Mr A D Brookes
Mr R E Williams	Mr J A Carr	Mr C P Dick
Mr C Fergusson	Mr R N Ashby	Mr & Mrs M Shaw
Macclesfield Canal Society	Mr J W Cook	Dr K R Aylmer
Mr R R & Mrs S E Mansell	Mr A J Gray	Mr D C Kearney
Mr R H Derrick	Mrs L Goddard	Mr B Perkins
Mr R W Brearley	Dr B H Latimer	Mrs V Ayre
Mr B C J Hughes	Mr C A Jaques	Mr M J Rolfe
Midland Canal Club	Mrs M I Clegg	Mr E L Hill
Mr D W Tomlinson	Mr J Cooke	Mr W J Webb
Mr A F Barnes	Mr W N Fuller	Mr A F Carter
Mrs K M Stanier (part with sub.)	Mr E Pringle	Dr E J Muller



The Trust receives grant assistance from the European Regional Development Fund



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

Over the quarter from April to June 2006 our volunteers have worked every weekend at Tamworth Road including 13 Saturdays, 12 Sundays and some midweek days, doing 138 man days of work. The WRG Canal Camp in April and weekend visits from the Dig Deep groups; Kent & East Sussex CRG in April, Newbury WPG in May, London WRG and WRG BITM in June contributing a further 214 man days.

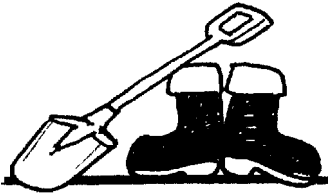
In early April we continued laying the capping bricks on the rebuilt section of the towpath wall in the garden, removed the earth ramp and excavated the foundation trench in preparation for rebuilding the gap in the wall where the deep pit containing the lock coping stones had been. The KESCRG weekend at the start of the Canal Camp laid concrete blinding in the towpath wall trench, and continued the bricklaying and completed the concreting for the top wing walls of Lock 26. A short section of towpath which was subsiding into the old collapsed bywash tunnel at the tail of Lock 24 was excavated and consolidated in preparation for resuming the excavation of the lock chamber, which was a major task for the Camp at Easter.

As a result of starting the excavation last November we suspected that the lock contained most of the large coping stones and brickwork from its partial demolition, and a method statement and risk assessments were prepared to enable the chamber to be cleared and materials recovered in a systematic and safe manner using the available machinery and manpower. After some initial difficulty in establishing the optimum technique, work continued steadily throughout the Camp removing the coping and quoin stones, by sliding them up temporary earth ramps, often requiring a particular stone to be moved first to get at another that was wedged in by the first or by large chunks of demolished masonry. Thousands of re-usable bricks were also recovered and stacked ready for cleaning and the remaining earth and rubble removed to the temporary spoil heap.

(continued over)

1998 DATA PROTECTION ACT

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LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

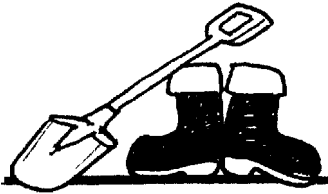
The other main achievement of the Camp was to complete all the capping brickwork on both top wing walls of Lock 26 to a very high standard. After this the bricklayers moved onto the roadside wall to restart this from its previously half rebuilt level. The top course, which had suffered some frost damage to the lime mortar over 2 winters, was partly re-laid and levels established to compensate for the irregularities in the original 1790's construction. Other jobs done during the Camp included installing the ladder, obtained by Peter Magee, re-pointing in Lock 25, and much brick cleaning and transporting of bricks. At the end of the Camp we spread a lorry load of crushed concrete chips, supplied free through Michael Brown, along the towpath and ramp to reinstate a good walking surface. The towpath had been closed each day whilst machinery was working on the lock excavation, with a temporary diversion along Tamworth Road using signs produced for us by Tudor Signs.

After the Camp, Keith continued the excavation work over several weekends to complete the last few yards of Lock 24 up to the top cill, recovering yet more stones and bricks. Surprisingly, the timber cill beam is still in place, although partly burnt, and with the land drain tunnelling beneath it through the stone and brickwork at some depth.

One of the jobs originally planned for the Camp was to install the rebar and concrete the foundation across the towpath wall gap. Following consultation with Roy Sutton, I had earlier drawn up plans for a more heavily reinforced foundation and wall across the pit area and made a contact at ROM in Lichfield with Steve Winter who kindly volunteered to produce the detailed specification, source the steelwork at cost and assist us in its installation. Although it was not possible to obtain the rebar in time for the Camp, Steve persuaded ROM to sponsor us and supply it all free of charge, for which we are most grateful. Steve and his colleague Pat also spent a weekend with us in early May wiring it all together and installing the cage, whilst the visiting Newbury WPG built the shuttering, so that we were able to cast the foundation with a 6 cubic metre load of ready-mixed concrete the following weekend. ROM have since also supplied us with the rebar panels for the wall.

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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



LICHFIELD CANAL

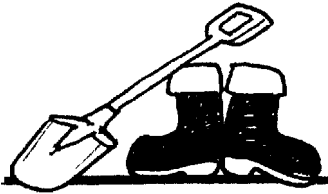
WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

The Newbury group also continued the roadside wall bricklaying – in heavy rain – whilst some of our gang found a nice dry job painting and reorganising the inside of the container ! By contrast, June started with a heatwave and bricklaying on the roadside wall was continued at every opportunity, by Brian and by visits from London WRG and from WRG BITM, and is now up to the final capping course of headers. Phil Cardy kept re-appearing with all the different groups and has helped a lot with our bricklaying progress this Spring. At the end of May, Brian and Barry had set out the walls across the new garden towpath wall foundation and the two visiting groups in June largely completed building the back wall. They have also done a lot of preparation work on Lock 24, cutting out damaged brickwork, raking out the loose mortar joints and removing the last of the spoil, whilst London WRG also found time to do some re-pointing below Lock 26 and remove the scaffolding from Lock 25.

Our own volunteers have continued many of these jobs between the WRG visits, especially the bricklaying, plus preparation and completion work, as well as the many unsung tasks such as keeping the site tidy, mowing and strimming, weed control, watering, landscaping, plant maintenance and repairs, moving materials and the bulk of the necessary brick cleaning, etc. Thanks are due in particular to Keith, Brian, George, Barry, Clive, Peter, Adrian, Mick, Simon, Bob, Dave, Peter, & Michael. (continued over)



WRG BITM laying the top courses of the towpath back wall in the garden
(Photo by Phil Sharpe)



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

We have a gap until the final Dig Deep weekend arranged for this year which will be KESCRG in October, so we are on our own for a few months, and more assistance will always be welcome. We hope over the summer and autumn to complete the roadside wall, including shuttering, concrete backfilling and landscaping, and to complete the garden towpath wall, with more brick cleaning, bricklaying and concreting. We also want to surface the reinstated towpath through the garden, finish off various sections of re-pointing work, continue to prepare Lock 24 for its partial re-building, and to remove most of the excess spoil.

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 yellow sign. We work almost every Sunday, except for the third Sunday of the month (which is on the Hatherton) when the advertised date is on the Saturday, and we are often 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 only for 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.

Phil Sharpe

Work Party Dates:

August: London WRG Sat/Sun 5/6, Sunday 13, Saturday 19, Sunday 27
September: Sunday 3, Sunday 10, Saturday 16, Sunday 24
October: Sunday 1, KESCRG Sat/Sun 7/8, Saturday 14, Sunday 22,
Sunday 29
November: Sunday 5, Sunday 12, Saturday 18, Sunday 26
December: Sunday 3, Sunday 10, Saturday 16

Phil Sharpe



LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS
RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.

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DIRECTORS

Chairman	Brian Kingshott	☎/Fax 01547 530457
	Park Cottage, Hopton Castle, Craven Arms, SY7 0QF	
Vice Chairman & Land Liason	Mike Smith	☎01283 790543
Finance	Brookhay Cottage, Brookhay Lane, Lichfield WS13 8RQ	
	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@lhcert.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	
Marketing & Sales	David Moore	☎01543 432718
	88 Spring Lane, Whittington, Lichfield. WS14 9NA	
Environment	Mike Battisson	☎01543 300090
	3 Minors Hill, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 9DJ	
Plant Manager	Peter Magee	☎01543 264935
	28 Johnson Close, Lichfield WS13 6AW	
<u>OTHER OFFICERS</u>		
Lichfield Work Party	Peter Matthews	☎01543 318933
Hatherton Work Party	Denis Cooper	☎(work) 01543 374370

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