

The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

Issue 49 Autumn 2006



Brian Kingshott, David Suchet, Bob Williams, Chris Coburn, Eric Wood
Maning the stand at IWA National Festival held in Beale Park
(Photo by Sue Williams)

**Don't forget
Jazz Night**

on Saturday November 11th, 7.30 for 8pm
at Whittington Village Hall.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

At last I can report that work has started on constructing the culvert which will take the Lichfield Canal under the Birmingham Road as part of the Southern Bypass scheme. It has taken over a year of complex discussions to finalise the deal and I must pay tribute to my fellow directors for their hard work and support through some difficult times. I must include in these thanks a tribute to British Waterways whose negotiating skills were invaluable. Chief Executive, Robin Evans, has kept in close touch with the issues and Tony Harvey and his team at Fazeley threw all their resources into the ring. Not least, I must thank Roy Sutton. IWA honorary consultant engineer for making the long drive from Sussex to give us invaluable expert advice. Now all we have to do is to pay for the work and elsewhere in this magazine you will find the financial position set out by Bob Williams. One simple message is that we need continuing generous support from everyone who values canal restoration.

The marketing team took our stand to the IWA National Festival at Beale Park in late August and we must always be grateful for the great commitment of those who, under David Moore's direction, give up so much time to these events. It was a pleasant weekend and it was good to be able to meet our Vice-President, David Suchet, who had just performed the official opening of the Festival. We had a very long conversation with the inevitable photocalls. David is very committed to our cause and hopes to be able to come to Lichfield very soon to catch up on our progress and to relaunch the Appeal. He is also very actively pursuing the complex issues surrounding PPG 13. This is the government policy which we had thought would ensure that the Trust would not have to pay for such road crossings as the one at Birmingham Road but which was interpreted in a way which was totally unhelpful. Such issues will surely come along again and we are very aware that the plans to widen the M6 will bring PPG 13 very much back into play. We are very fortunate to have such very active support from our Vice President.

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Another view of the stand
at the IWA National
Festival at Beale Park
(Photo by LHCRT)

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

Within the Trust we have had some changes of personnel. We have been very pleased to welcome Bob Mullarkey as a Director. Bob has attended our meetings for many years and has been a regular part of our Lichfield work force. He has agreed to take on the Health and Safety portfolio and to contribute to give his expertise to site management. We held a meeting in late July with members who have approached us with offers of help. We had a very pleasant evening and made some progress towards drawing them into our work. We are especially looking for help on the engineering planning and supervision side of things. We have also spent a consultation evening with our volunteers who continue to work hard on the site at Tamworth Road. Everyone was agreed that we must press ahead with the work at Tamworth Road using both our own volunteers and visiting groups.

The future of Lock 24, which was excavated for exploration has been considered. Having assessed its condition, photographed all the details and taken measurements, the best way ahead in the short term is to fill it in and carry out low level landscaping. This will improve the appearance of the area, enable the safety fencing to be removed and ensure a good through route for walkers. The infill will also conserve the brickwork and limit the need for maintenance work. In due time the future of Lock 24 will be determined when there is a clearer idea on how the canal will achieve a crossing of Cricket Lane.

In early September Phil Sharpe stood down as Lichfield Canal Work Party Organiser. We owe Phil a considerable debt of gratitude for all that he has done for the Trust for so many years. This is also a good time to give our continuing thanks to Denis Cooper who keeps the Hatherton in good order with his dedicated team.

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Our Vision Statement

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



The Trust receives grant assistance from the European Regional Development Fund

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)

Also on the Hatherton front we have finally taken delivery of the completed Arup Report which has been on the stocks for nearly 3 years. Again, we are indebted to Phil Sharpe for all his detailed input and revision. We now have a professional document which we can show to councils, landowners, developers and potential funders. Directors are now exploring ways in which we can use the Report to the best advantage while it is still fresh and up to date. Receiving this report highlights just how important it is to get something similar for the Lichfield Canal but, as ever, cost is a limiting factor. On the positive side, we recently made a presentation to the Planning Scrutiny Committee of Lichfield District Council.

It is important that restoration schemes are seen to benefit and involve a wide spectrum of interests. Although we have to see the wider strategic picture and show how the restored canals will enhance and regenerate the national network, especially the BCN, we have to ensure that we are inclusive at the local level. We need the support of the walkers, the conservationists, the schools and many others. When we fill in those enormous grant application forms we have to be able to tick the boxes. We have established a valuable link with Great Barr School which will be useful to both sides of the deal. Meanwhile we are delighted that this magazine comes to you through the good offices of the 1444th (Brownhills) Squadron Air Training Corps. Their offer of help was very welcome but they are too young to be let loose on site and so they have been deployed on the processing of envelopes, stamps and address labels.

The Trust is in good heart and ends 2006 with some very real progress to record. We are confident that our work will continue to go forward with the continuing support of our members. Above all can I urge you all to support the David Suchet Appeal which is enabling us to pay for the very expensive works in Lichfield.

Brian Kingshott

For Sale

Nearly new electric cooker with fan oven £75. Available from Bridgnorth area. Donation will be made to L & H from the sale. Tel (07976645057)

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.

FUNDING NEWS

BIRMINGHAM ROAD CULVERT

During September, the Trust entered into a legal Agreement with Staffordshire County Council for the construction of a canal culvert under a new roundabout now being constructed on Birmingham Road, Lichfield at a fixed cost of £490,000. Whilst this is advance work for the Lichfield Canal in this location, failure to do it now could have jeopardised the chances of full restoration for ever.

The Charity Bank have provided a loan of £255,000, repayable over 25 years (or sooner without penalty). Additional borrowing will be needed to for the final stage payment of £50,000 early next year. These commitments place a considerable strain on the Trust's finances, leaving little available for the ongoing work of canal restoration.



Approximate position of Lichfield Canal culvert underneath new roundabout
(photo by Bob Williams).

DAVID SUCHET APPEAL

To reduce the level of debt for the above works, donors have risen to the challenge put out in the Spring to raise as much as possible towards a target of £250,000. So far, cash income, pledges and Gift Aid tax recovery amount to £55,000: remarkable in just a few months! We thank you all for your generosity – not for “our” canal, but “your” future link to revitalise the northern BCN.

(Continued over)

FUNDING NEWS (Continued)

The Appeal is not closing; it's only just begun. Whilst the related works are under way, it's that burden of debt to meet the deadline that we must still overcome. If you have been thinking about it, please act now as anything from £10 to £1,000 will be gratefully received. If you do not have an Appeal leaflet with donation form to hand, try the website www.lhcrt.org.uk where you can make an online payment (and record Gift Aid tax declaration), or simply send a cheque with a covering note that it is for the David Suchet Appeal and with Gift Aid if possible. Cheques should be made payable to LHCRT Ltd, David Suchet Appeal and sent to the Treasurer Bob Williams as detailed on the back page of this magazine. All contributions will be acknowledged and, remember, £1,000 qualifies you for Life Membership.

We hope that David Suchet will be able to come to Lichfield this Autumn to visit the site and redouble his support for the Appeal. Much has happened since his last visit which helped us raise all the funding then needed to complete the Lichfield Canal Aqueduct over the M6 Toll motorway. That testimony to our aims to achieve full restoration is seen by over 30,000 travellers every day. We need to press on with the rest to bring it into use as a major waterway feature in the Midlands.

GRAND PRIZE DRAW

Hopefully you will be reading this magazine just after October when there is still a chance to enter your tickets in our annual Draw to be made during our "Jazz Night" in Whittington on 11th November. Thanks to those who have sold or bought tickets which have raised over £3,500 so far: keep them coming in up to the last minute! Prize winners will be announced in the next issue.

BIG LOTTERY BREATHING PLACES

The Trust has made a bid for £2,300 towards another public walk of part of the Lichfield Canal in 2007. Such walks have been very popular on two previous occasions with many people asking when they can find out more about the route of the canal. An update will be included in the next edition. If you would like to help with this, please call Bob Williams on 01543 671427.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The long-awaited ERDF-funded Feasibility Report on the Hatherton Canal by Arup was completed and delivered in August. Over 100 pages of close text and diagrams and 20 large sheets of drawings provide a detailed analysis of the route and requirements for its reinstatement – and of course an outline of the astronomic cost even at today's prices. As we get to grips with the content, it is expected that elements will be reported in "Cut Both Ways".

Bob Williams Director (Finance)

Press Date for Cut Both Ways 50 is 5th Jan

Cannock Extension

After looking at our web site, Tony Jukes contacted us to share his photographs taken on a cruise just before the closure of the Cannock Extension Canal. These can now be seen on our web site www.lhcr.org.uk. Tony also had rescued a couple of Bridge name plates which he has now passed over to the Trust.

The name plates are for “Badgers Bridge” and “Silvesters Bridge” (originally at Stokes Lane and Norton Lane) are now being restored and the Trust is looking for a suitable place to display them.

Many thanks again to Tony, (and to Bob Mullarkey who collected them from Caerphilly).



Tony Jukes with the
bridge name plates
(Photo by Bob
Mullarkey)



Bridge name plates from Tony Jukes (Photo by Bob Mullarkey)



Tug and coal boats, NCB. Newer loading facility in background.,
one of Tony jukes photo's to be found in the website

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1st July 3rd October 2006.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land fund
Mr E J Geary		100.00	
anonymous		100.00	
Mr S M Merrett		100.00	
Mr P C Whitehouse	25.00		
Mrs T Dudley (talk fees)	50.00		
Mr H J Y Pringle (with sub.)	105.00		
Mr R W Lloyd-Hart (with sub.)	24.00		
IWA Northumbria Branch (twice)		450.00	
Mr M P Adamson		25.00	
Mr G Giddings		50.00	
Mr D R Ayles		25.00	
Mr K A Twyman		50.00	
anonymous pledge		2,400.00	
Mr P R Newman (with sub.)	35.00		
Mr B K J Marlow		25.00	
Mr J Moreton (with sub.)	90.00		
Mr N Blears (with sub.)	29.00		
Mr J B E Parkes		250.00	
Mr M J Reeves (pledge)		240.00	
Late D A Smith legacy	10,000.00		
Mr R F Kilsby	25.00		
Sitech Software Limited	25.00		
Mr A V H Gulvin	35.00		
Mr G H Thompson (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr & Mrs B Seymour		50.00	
Mr D A Loader		25.00	
Mr A D Brookes		300.00	
Mr P E Chaplin		100.00	
IWA Middlesex Branch		250.00	
Mr P J Heathcote		40.00	
Mr C D Gibson		100.00	
Mrs D W Lear		25.00	
Mr D Alan Parkes		100.00	

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

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST (CONTINUED)

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1st July 3rd October 2006.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land fund
Mr A P Hopkins		150.00	
Mrs J Foster in memory of late Mother	500.00		
Mr R C Snell		40.00	
Mr M D Ainge (pledge)		360.00	
Mrs P Ainge (pledge)		360.00	
Mr W F Dukes (part pledge)		500.00	
Mrs P Burgess		25.00	
Mr L H Walker (additional)		100.00	
Mr P J Smith		150.00	
Mr D Shipman	35.00		
Mr D G Harwood (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr J Denton		100.00	
Lichfield Running Club; water station	100.00		
Mr P L G Holland		500.00	
Dr A Padfield		250.00	
IWA South London Branch		250.00	
Mrs C A Henry		1,000.00	
Mr Brian Kingshott (donated expenses)	320.76		
Mr David Stanistreet			90.00
Regular donors to appeals		1,406.40	208.00
Aggregated donations below £20 each	348.55		

We are very grateful for the following donations:-

- The family of the late D A Smith for £10,000 at a time of particular need.
- Mr Trevor Youngman of Tudor Signs, Walsall for footpath signs and frames.
- Mrs J Newman, Burntwood, for an aluminium ladder

New Members upto 08th October 2006

Mr R Burgess, Halesowen
Mr D.J.T.Bennett, Burntwood
Mrs D.L.Bennett, Burntwood
Miss S.E.Haycock, Cannock
Mr D.J.Whitmore, Lichfield
Ms D.Smith, Lichfield
Mrs A.Boot, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan
Mr I.Bird, Lichfield
Mr M.J.Adamson, Bournemouth
Mr R.Dale, Lichfield
Mr J.Winfield, Pelsall, Walsall
Mr D.Pike, Droitwich
Mr & Mrs R.Wood, Kingstanding, Birmingham
Mr S.G.Crossland, Walton on the Hill, Stafford
Mr R. Kulkarni, Lichfield
Mr S.G.H.Nevill, Sandygate, Sheffield
Mr & Mrs C.McGranaghan, Lichfield
Mr P.Gilbert, Lichfield
Mr A.Townsend, Worthy Down, Hants.
Mrs G.M.Pitt, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield
Mr M.J.Stewart, Midland Canal Club, Northampton

Have we got your up-to-date e-mail address?

I recently sent out over 200 e-mails to members to let them know that the Huddlesford Gathering was regrettably cancelled. Unfortunately, many of them bounced back "unknown".

If you are on e-mail, could you help me to update our records? Please send a message to info@lhcr.org.uk with the word "address" in the subject line so that I can confirm or correct your details on the database.

Why not do it now before you forget.

Sue Williams Secretary & WebMaster

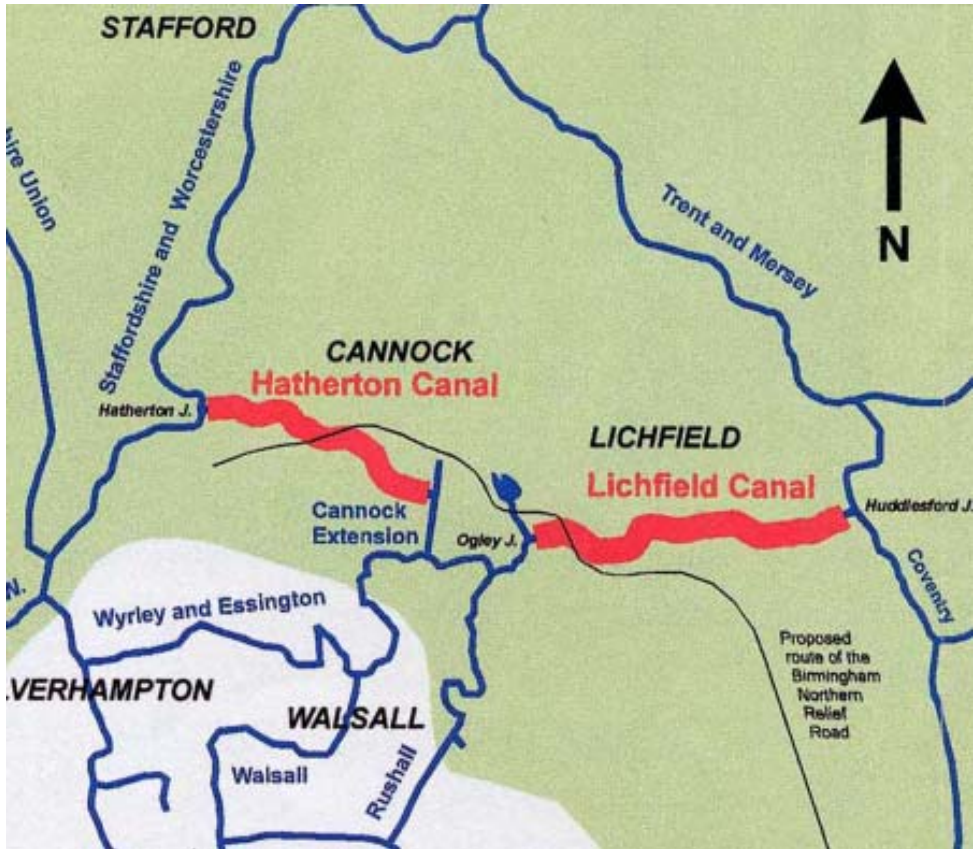
Membership rates are:

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).

ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to record the loss of the following member
Mr Barry Henry, Wolverhampton, died December 2005.:-



Map showing the how the two canals link up and add a vital link to the Birmingham Canals Navigation

Don't forget to take a look at the web site

www.lhcrt.org.uk

for upto-date pictures, news and on line ordering of sales items

Back Copies of Cut Both Ways available at £1.00 Each

Copies of issues 1 to 48 are available from the Editor

Stephen Pitt 11 Silkmore Lane, Stafford, ST17 4JN

Cheques made payable to LHCRT Ltd

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

MARKETING REPORT

HUDDLESFORD GATHERING

First let me apologise for the cancellation of the above event and to any members who attempted to visit the site. We always knew that there would be some disruption because of the engineering works being carried out by Network Rail but we were confident that it would not prevent the event taking place. However, as the time of the event drew nearer it became obvious that the extent of the disruption was greater than we expected, so reluctantly we took the decision to cancel it.

Unfortunately *Cut Both Ways 48* had been printed and posted out. We did manage to circulate some members locally and we posted it on the web site straight away. The problem was compounded when the local newspaper announced the event in its *What's On* section. We placed cancellation notices in the nearby village, on the towpath and in the lane leading to the site. In addition Sue Williams e-mailed as many local members as she had addresses for.

I know that not everyone is on e-mail and we can only say that we are very sorry to anyone that made a wasted journey to Huddlesford. We cannot blame the local paper; they got the information from *Cut Both Ways* and that is precisely the reason we send them the magazine. It is nice to know that they read it. It has highlighted a weakness in our system in that that we no longer have an identified press & publicity officer. If you feel this is something you can take on, please contact any of the committee.

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Trust stand at Doveridge Steam rally (photo by David Moore)

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

There are a number of events to report on, beginning with the **Lichfield Medieval Market** in July. This is certainly one of the most colourful events that we participate in and always very enjoyable. It was made more enjoyable this year when we realised that it produced a record turnover of nearly £600. We had our usual site and two gazebos with a mixture of publicity and fundraising material, together with bric-a-brac, to attract the customers. Team consisted of Bob & Sue, Mike & Bobbie, Paul & Beverley, Hilary, Jan, Terry & Jean, Julie and Mavis and myself. My thanks to everyone for their contribution.

As a change from canals our next outing involved traction engines, vintage tractors and motor cars. **Doveridge Steam & Vintage Charity Rally** was held this year at Needwood Rise Farm, Barton-under-Needwood. This was the first time that the event had been held there, the organisers having lost their previous site near Derby. Among the local charities supported were St Giles Hospice and The County Air Ambulance. On arrival we were told there was a marquee set aside for charity stalls but that it had lost its roof the previous evening. We were welcome to use the space and, we were told, the roof would be put back on later. Needless to say this did not happen but we had no need to worry, for two days we had the clearest of blue skies for our roof. There was plenty to entertain the visitors with fairground rides as well as the vehicles, it was a pity it was not better attended. Our take at the show was a disappointing £60. Bob & Sue on Saturday and Mike B on the Sunday helped Mavis & I.

The following weekend saw the team running a charity stall at **Walsall Market**. Once again a chance to get rid of some of the bric-a-brac the Trust accumulates over the year. My first time at this event and, by all accounts, not as well attended as previous years. Nevertheless we managed to take a very useful £213. Thanks here are due to Bob & Sue, Bobbie, Hilary, Brian our chairman, Terry & Jean, Mavis & I and Peter Magee who provided the transport.

(continued over)



The stand at Lichfield Medieval Market
done in style
(photo by Sue Williams)

MARKETING REPORT (continued)

Then for the big one, the **IWA National Festival** at Beale Park on the banks on the Thames near Goring. The Festival was opened by our vice president David Suchet OBE. David found time in his busy day to visit the stand and meet the team. Also on hand were our Chairman Brian, President Eric Wood and Patron Chris Coburn OBE.

It was an opportunity to bring all concerned up to date with the situation at Birmingham Road. David Fletcher CBE, former chairman of BW and another of our patrons, also visited the stand on the Saturday.

Hardly time to get home before we had the **Whittington Country Fair** on the following Saturday. Unfortunately this year's event was not blessed with good weather; we had high winds and at times heavy rain. The stand was within the main marquee so we were spared the worst of it but some of the exhibitors who were outside did not have an easy time of it. The display included material loaned to us by the Local History Society who had done some research on the Capper family from whom Cappers Bridge takes its name. Sales at the event were over £100, including over £70 of draw tickets, so well done and thank you to Mike, Bev, Hilary and Julie.

Sunday morning the 10th September saw us out bright and early at Darnford Lane, not to see the canal but to provide a welcome drink for the competitors in the **Lichfield 10K Road Race**. Over 800 competitors took part in the event and, as in previous years, the Trust manned the drinks station. The event organisers make a donation of £100 in recognition of our contribution and we were thanked in both the local Lichfield newspapers. The team at Darnford Lane were Jeanne & Peter Buck, Rob, Bev, Bob, Mavis and I.

On Saturday 21st October at Boley Park Community Hall, we will be holding our **Autumn Fair**. Unfortunately this will not reach you in time so I hope that you put the date in your diaries last issue. Hopefully it will be in time to remind you about the **Jazz Evening at Whittington Village Hall** (that's where the AGM was held this year). The date is November 11th and tickets are available from Sue or myself at £12 per person including supper.

Finally a reminder that the **Boat, Caravan & Outdoor Show** will be at **The National Exhibition Centre**, Birmingham from **17-25 February 2007** and we will again be represented. We need to man the stand for all 9 days of the show so if you can spare a day or more please contact me on **01543 432718**

Dave Moore

Cadets 'Fly in' to Support the Trust

The Brownhills canal festival is always one to enjoy. When manning the Trust's stand one is met with great interest and enthusiasm for our project even if the most repeated question is still unanswerable;

“ When will it be finished?”

As a social event it is a very rewarding day, often meeting local residents with tales to tell about the 'curly Wyrley' in its heyday, even (regrettably more rarely these days) talking to those who worked the canal. Stories worth noting before they are lost forever.

For interest, this year was no exception, but for a very different reason.

Along the canal-side festival site the 1444 (Brownhills) Squadron Air Training Corps were exhibiting and recruiting. During the day I was approached by their commanding (senior) Officer Chris Corns who was looking for assistance with activities for their cadets.

(continued over)



Packing, labelling, stamping and posting all the copies of Cut Both Ways
(Photo by Mike Battisson)

Cadets 'Fly in' to Support the Trust (Continued)

The group is for young people between 13 and 18, and meets on Wednesdays & Fridays between 17:30 and 22:00 in Brownhills. Activities range from Duke of Edinburgh Award to aviation training, shooting and adventure training. Sqn telephone number is 01543 360717.

As part of their training, particularly those engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the cadets are required to complete work for the community at large.

Chris was enquiring if the Trust could offer on-going work to help cadets add to their CVs. Engaging with the community is also a very important activity for our Trust, examples are often needed in support of bids for grant funds for our restoration activities. Happily we were able to suggest a suitable task.

It is gratifying to note that the Trust's membership is steadily growing, currently reported by Trevor Morris, your Membership Secretary to be standing at 1650. This very welcome growth does bring with it certain challenges, viz. packing, labelling, stamping and posting all the copies of Cut Both Ways, four times a year - a laborious and time consuming task.

On many occasions the Williams clan and other local volunteers are pressed into service. But on this occasion this was not necessary because the cadets completed the job for us in double quick time.

Our sincere thanks are due to Chris Corns for arranging and to Plt. Off. Thomas Hender for managing the exercise, and also to:

Cdt Cpl Stefan Hinton
Cdt David Marshall
Cdt Cpl Sarah Pugh
Cdt Mike Webb
Cdt James Hawkins
Cdt Luke Daniels
Cdt Merrett (Not Pictured)

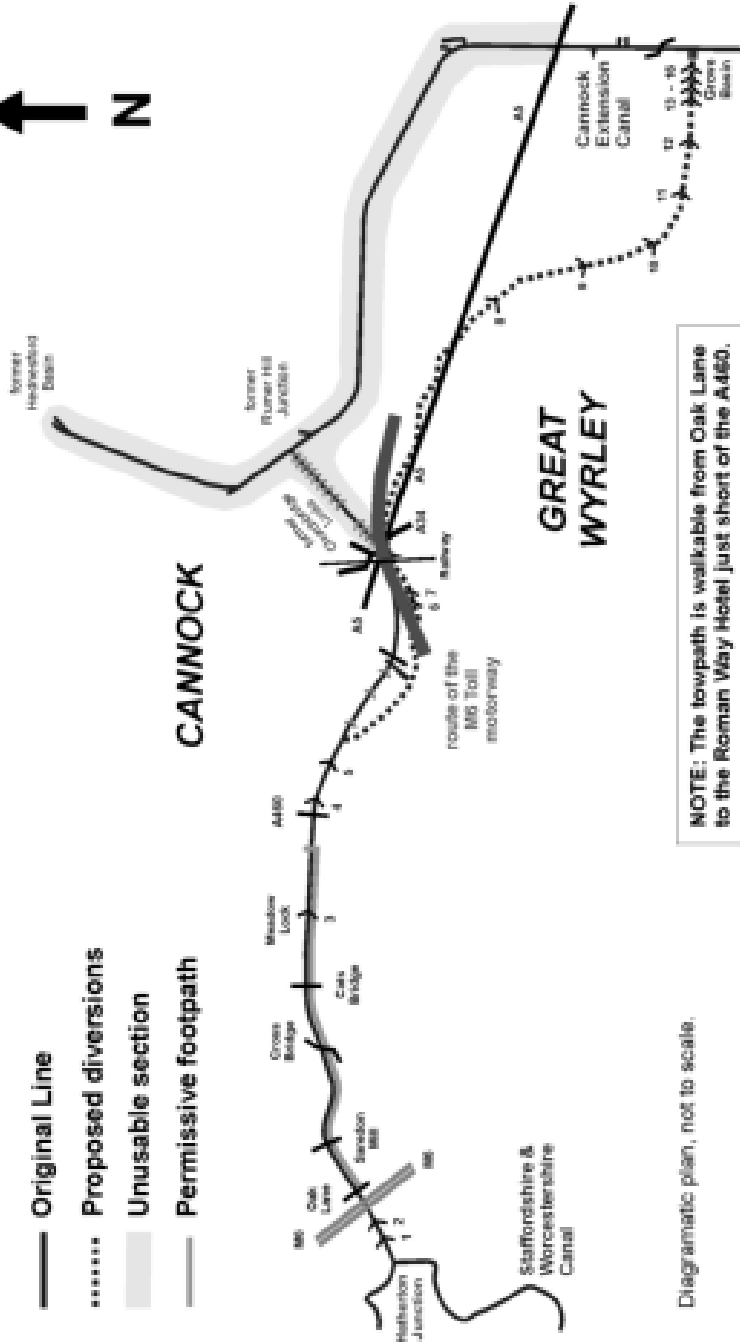
Your efforts are now recorded for posterity on the Trust's website. Thanks again guys, we wish you every success in your training. See you again for the Winter Issue?

Mike Battison



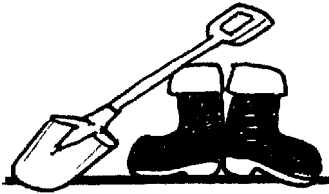
THE HATHERTON CANAL

- Original Line
- Proposed diversions
- Unusable section
- Permissive footpath



NOTE: The towpath is walkable from Oak Lane to the Roman Way Hotel just short of the A460.

Diagrammatic plan, not to scale.



HATHERTON CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

WORKPARTY – SUNDAY 20th AUGUST 2006

Another very hot day.

Our happy team of eight, well provided with mechanical equipment, cut back heavy summer growth on towpath and hedge between Catsbridge and the M6 Motorway.

The towpath, which we built up last winter, between Saredon Mill and Oak Lane was re-levelled in areas where rabbits and foxes had dug up our good work.

It was noted that a stand of some ten trees – immature elm or hornbeam – near the picnic bench at Saredon Mill Bridge is now not just sickly but dead or dying. The following week I informed Paul Wilkinson, BW Ecologist at West Midlands Office of this as I consider the trees, at the side of the road and up to thirty five feet high, could become dangerous as they deteriorate over the next couple of years. I also wished to know, if we felled this winter, what we should replant that might not be similarly affected by any beetles or spores left on site. He could not give an opinion but offered to visit the site and report back.

WORKPARTY – SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2006

Only six volunteers today: holidays; illness; still boating back from the National; sick spouses; taking daughter back to Uni. You have never heard such excuses!

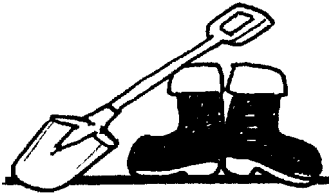
Seriously – six were all we needed to cut back towpath and hedge growth from the Roman Way through to Cross Bridge, leaving all tidy and walkable.

NOW TO CONCLUDE. Paul Wilkinson came back to me on 25th September. He has visited site, thinks trees are field elm, agrees that we remove them but advises that we should not replant, other than fill hedge gaps, as it is possible that natural regeneration will occur over the years. If not, then decide what to plant. I accept this and can now schedule felling, logging and burning into our winter programme.

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) for details of meeting places.

Denis Cooper

Work Party Dates: Sundays 19 November, 17 December.
January 21, February 18, March 18



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS

This report covers July, August and the start of September 2006 and includes work done at Tamworth Road site by the Trust's own volunteers plus an additional week-end visit from the London Waterway Recovery Group in early August.

As will be recalled, July was exceptionally hot and not conducive to hard physical labour, but work still continued each weekend, although numbers were somewhat down due no doubt to the weather as well as summer holidays. Bricklaying was completed on the roadside wall and, after vegetation clearance, the big job of installing shuttering boards along the 60 metre length to retain the backing concrete was also accomplished. In the garden, we finished the bricklaying on the back wall section for the towpath gap reinstatement, whilst good progress was made with brick cleaning to supply the front wall, and moving them to the site. Maintenance continued with strimming and weeding, repairs to the strimmer and mixer, and fitting extension feet to a platform for use as a temporary towpath bridge.

The weather in August was mercifully cooler, and progress was boosted by the London WRG visit on 5-6th August. After a late delivery on the Saturday, we successfully placed 6 cubic metres of readymix concrete to complete half the length of the roadside wall and moved round extra soil to support the shuttering on the other half. On the Sunday our gang removed the shuttering from the completed section, back-filled and levelled the roadside verge. Meanwhile, in the garden, the bricklayers made steady progress with the front section of the towpath wall and raised this half way over the weekend. A re-pointing job on the offside tail wall of Lock 25 was also finished off.

(continued over)

*Chasetown
Civil Engineering Ltd.*

EXCAVATION AND ALL TYPES OF GROUNDWORK

POOL ROAD, BURNTWOOD, STAFFS. WS7 3QW

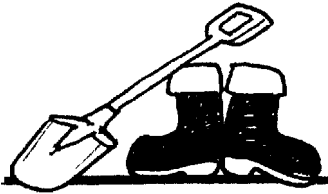


Telephone: Burntwood 01543 682564

Fax: 01543 676321

REGISTERED No. 1178150

Thanks again to Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd for their help



LICHFIELD CANAL

WORKING PARTY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Holidays and wet weather then intervened and the only other work achieved to the end of August was to largely complete raking out the brickwork joints in the chamber of Lock 24, in the process discovering some rather 'hollow' sounding areas of brickwork that will need to be removed and replaced.

Our attendances started to recover in September and the first weekend saw us mixing concrete for the first lift of infill between the two leaves of the towpath wall, as well as a bit more soil moving.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped, including 8 from London WRG, and especially to our small group of regulars for keeping things moving through a difficult period; Keith, Brian, George, Barry, Clive, Simon, Bob, and Mick.

Regretfully, as a result of various issues, culminating in a reduction in the restoration budget, and a structural problem on site, I have now resigned as Work Party Organiser and this will be my last report in Cut Both Ways.

Phil Sharpe

Work Party Dates:

November: Sunday 5, Sunday 12, Saturday 18, Sunday 26

December: Sunday 3, Sunday 10, Saturday 16

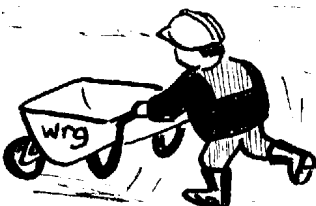
January: Sunday 7,

February: Sunday 4,

March: Sunday 4

Contact Lichfield Work Party, Peter Matthews ☎01543 318933

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



For details of Wateway Recovery Group
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