

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

**Issue 52 Summer 2007**



Crick Show rain-swept site on mid morning, (Bank Holiday) Monday  
(Photo by Bob Williams)

**HUDDLESFORD BOAT GATHERING**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007**

## **CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN**

Although it seems a good while ago it is good to report that we had an excellent attendance at the AGM at Whittington. The atmosphere was warm, friendly and positive. We followed up our own report on current progress with an illustrated talk on the Derby & Sandiacre restoration which was informative, upbeat and amusing. It is good to see what others are doing and compare weaknesses and strengths. They seem to place more stress on innovative engineering approaches which might inspire us to be more imaginative in some areas. There have been suggestions that we could introduce an inclined plane at Ogley! We hope to have a similar talk at the next AGM.

Also at the AGM we said farewell to Mike Smith as Vice-Chairman and Director. Mike's work has gone far beyond his Land Officer portfolio and he will be greatly missed although he continues to help us in many ways. We welcome Peter Magee as Vice-Chairman, a proper reward for his hard work and generosity. Peter helps, especially on the practical side, in so many ways and I look forward to working more closely with him. We have appointed Andrew Williams as our Education Officer and Geoff Crook as Environmental Officer. These are both areas in which we need the input of professional people with detailed experience.

The Lichfield Canal Walk was a great success and I must pay tribute to Bob Williams and everyone in the Marketing Group who put in so many hours work beforehand and on the day. We are also grateful for the invaluable input of Lichfield Cruising Club who made us as welcome as ever. We estimate that almost 1000 people joined in and it was a pleasure to walk the route with Michael Fabricant MP and Colin Greatorex the then Mayor of Lichfield. It was a great opportunity to meet people and to survey the route of the canal at close quarters. The subsequent publicity was excellent.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May I attended the memorial service for Sir John Smith, held in Eton College. The Chapel was full and the whole experience was very uplifting with the choir singing selections from the Messiah. It was a good opportunity to hear so much of Sir John's work especially with the Manifold Trust – "We remember the clarity of vision that conjured the conception of the Manifold Trust, and the single-minded endeavour with which he pursued it, to the benefit of hundreds of individuals and projects ..." His son and grandson spoke movingly of their own memories. He was clearly a modest man with a gift for understatement as when his diary recorded that a bomb had gone off within the College but that he had slept through it.

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Press Date for Cut Both Ways 53 is 5th Oct

## **CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued)**

Now, as the Trust moves towards its 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we must work to ensure that we maintain the momentum of restoration to ensure that Sir John's confidence in us through his substantial donations proves fully justified. It is essential that we renew our efforts to build a partnership with local authorities and others which will move us up to a new level. The restoration is an enormous task and it cannot reach a successful outcome without a substantial change of gear. A study of the history of the big recent restorations such as the Rochdale and the Huddersfield Narrow show that the volunteers can only take things so far. It requires the big battalions to come in to make the real difference. The Droitwich and the Cotswolds are current exemplars. The restoration of the Bradford Canal now seems imminent with the local authority taking the lead as it recognises the great benefits which the revived canal will bring.

*"Bradford Council is pressing on with plans to restore and rebuild Bradford Canal, which would connect to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, and has started to consider land assembly issues and the possible requirements for any compulsory land purchase. The Council currently owns 63 per cent of the land along the proposed route of the canal between Shipley and Bradford, but the remaining 37 per cent remains in private hands. The renewed canal is likely to cost about £55 million, but the Council believes that much of this money can be recouped in regeneration along the canal's corridor."* (IWA Bulletin) This is the case which we must continue to sell to our own constituency.

We need to build a partnership. We must bring new faces to our Council and indeed to all areas of our operations. This is a challenging environment, especially at a time when British Waterways is under such pressure. I suspect that what lies ahead is even harder than what has gone before.

*Brian Kingshott*

### **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.

Don't forget to take a look at the web site  
**[www.lhcrt.org.uk](http://www.lhcrt.org.uk)**  
for upto-date pictures, news and on-line ordering of  
sales items

## **FROM HERE AND THERE**

### **Donations**

We have recently received a donation of £160 which was income from a donation to one of our members as a result of a family celebration. In another context there is a growing tendency for people reaching milestones in their lives to request that they receive no presents but that those who wish should make a donation to a chosen charity. This can, of course, be gift aided. This may be a prospect of interest to other members and a comparatively easy way to achieve financial support for our work from a wider constituency.

### **The Big Pipe Mystery**

The removal of the large stormwater sewer from the bed of the Lichfield Canal is rising fast in the Trust's long list of priorities. It was installed when the canal was infilled in the 1960s and runs through the canal bed and the locks from the Chesterfield Road area to the A38 at Tamworth Road. Our work between Locks 24 and the A38 have uncovered the pipe which now lies in the way of the further major works we need to carry out. We have held discussions with Severn Trent who own the sewer and our engineers have designed a scheme which would divert the flow during the construction phase and then, possibly, use the water within the finished project. The cost will fall on the Trust and complex discussions lie ahead.

The Trust needs to establish exactly when the pipe was installed but this is not proving easy to establish. The local council was then responsible for what happened but the local government reorganisation of the early 1970s means that the records are hard to locate. Anecdotal reports have given us a wide spread of possible dates but we need something more exact. If anyone know when the pipe was installed and the canal was filled in please get in touch. The result could save the Trust a considerable sum and enable work to start in the not too distant future.

### **Wall Butts**

We have now joined the working group, led by Wall Parish Council, which is looking for ways to clean up the area and re-establish it as a valuable recreational asset. There are many issues to be tackled from serious anti-social behaviour to encroachment by Japanese knotweed. With help from Forest of Mercia, Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire Highways a "Friends of Muckley Corner Common" has been set up. Everyone sees the establishment of the new route of the canal through the area as a vital agent of regeneration.

### **Village Green**

The project to create a village green in the Wordsworth Close area in Lichfield has surfaced again. The legislation has been changed to make this easier and it now has the support of Lichfield City Council. The new approach does not threaten the restoration of the canal although we will continue to watch the situation very closely. Understandably, residents are trying to restrict further housing development.

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## **FROM HERE AND THERE (continued)**

### **Southern By-Pass Extension**

We have been in discussion with Staffordshire Highways on the design of the extension of the bypass from Birmingham Road to London Road to ensure that full provision is made for the canal. This will be done in two stages. Initially, Persimmon will build 24 houses and will build a section of road to enable access from London Road. Later, Staffordshire Highways will build the remainder of the highway to connect with Birmingham Road. It is possible that two islands will be required at the London Road junction which could affect the canal.

### **Patrons**

Michael Fabricant MP has accepted our invitation to become a Patron of the Trust. This is an honour which we reserve for those who have given exceptional service to our cause. He joins Chris Coburn and David Fletcher. Michael has always been a keen supporter of the waterways movement and of L & H in particular. Although this follows the death of Sir John Smith, who was one of our first patrons, the Trust can appoint as many patrons as it feels fit.

### **The Hatherton**

The Trust continues to work on the Hatherton at all levels. Denis Cooper and his team keep sections of the track maintained and in good order. We are talking to Little Wyrley Estates about the best route across their land and are in discussion with South Staffordshire District Council and Countrywide Homes about gaining access to additional land at Churchbridge which should enable us to find an easier approach to the David Suchet Tunnel. We are responding to the consultations for the Cannock Chase Development Framework.

*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.

**Back Copies of Cut Both Ways available at £1.00 Each**

Copies of issues 1 to 51 are available from Sue Williams

Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JP

Cheques made payable to LHCRT Ltd

## New Members up to 4th July 2007

Mrs M.V.Todd, Knowle  
Mr B.Cook, Whittington, Lichfield  
Mr W. G.Spiby, Chaddesdon, Derby  
Mrs L.Strange, Sutton Coldfield  
Dr and Mrs P.A.Cooper, Lichfield  
Mr T.R.Yeend, Coven, Wolverhampton  
Mr and Mrs P.W. Lawrence, Shenstone, Lichfield  
Mr I.Vevers, Lichfield  
Mr H.Vosper, Piccadilly Village, Manchester  
Mr J.Hipwell, Lichfield  
Mrs J.M.Hipwell, Lichfield  
Mr C.F.Lamb, Lichfield  
Mr K.R.LePla, Lichfield  
Mr J.Moses, Lichfield  
Mr D.Worrollo, Brownhills  
Mr R.Carswell, Perranporth, Cornwall  
Ms C.Bagley, Cheslyn Hay

Membership 1220 ( Including 107 Life,12 Joint Life,13 Group, 17 Corporate)  
Plus 469 Family, Total 1689

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We regret to record the loss of the following members:-  
Mr B Myatt, Market Drayton, died 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

### **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).

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

## **MARKETING REPORT**

I write this in the middle of 'flaming June' although the flames do seem to have been dampened a little this year. Yesterday, they tell me, was the wettest day on record and I have just been e-mailed a photo of our next marketing venue, the site of Saul Canal Festival at Saul Junction. Both the camp site and car park are under water, up to 4 feet deep in places. Needless to say, the event was cancelled.

Moira Canal Festival, this year at its new venue at Conkers, was another victim of the weather. Saturday was spent preventing the gazebo taking to the air in strong winds. On Sunday it was virtually continuous rain, so much so that we gave up at 1.30pm and went home.

Crick Boat Show produced a fine day on the Saturday but it certainly made up for it on the following two days. Bob's photo of the rain-swept site on Monday afternoon gives a fair impression of the day. Lichfield Bower was on the same Monday but in view of the weather, Mike Brown and his team decided not to go. So, four events on the Marketing calendar and we have very little to show as regards raising funds.

The last weekend in June saw us at the Historic Boats Rally at Braunston and Brownhills Canal Festival. At Braunston Bob & Sue Williams were in the middle of another large puddle, as the photo shows. Thank goodness for the catering van that was able to supply the cardboard. Brownhills was on the wettest day of the year (according to the Met Office) and we set up in the rain and wondered why we bother. However, in this part of Staffordshire the weather did not live up to the forecast and, apart from a few showers we had a relatively fine day.

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Michael Fabricant MP at the Lichfield Medieval market (photo by B Williams)

## MARKETING REPORT (continued)

The Historic Boats Rally and Brownhills Festival between them made a contribution of nearly £1,000 to the Trust, which makes us feel that maybe it is worth doing it after all.

Thanks are due to all who turned out to man the stands and to those who were prepared to go and help at the Bower, in spite of the weather.

The role of the Marketing Group is not confined to fundraising, there is also the important job of promotion and telling the public the aims, aspirations and achievements of the Trust. Much of our time on the L&H stand is spent talking to people, many of whom know nothing about the restoration. In addition, every month Bob Williams will find himself making presentations to a wide range of organisations, spreading the word.

Recently the Lichfield City Forum staged a 'Good News for Lichfield' day. Various groups with good things to say and promote about the city were invited to exhibit in the Guildhall. We were involved because we believe that the restoration of the canal is good news and it will be a great attraction for Lichfield. The public who attended were asked to vote on what they thought was good about the city. There were a number of points to choose from and I noticed that the canal restoration was one that received a lot of votes.

With so many events cancelled it does mean fewer opportunities to sell tickets for our Grand Prize Draw. As this is a major contributor to our fundraising, this year especially, please make every effort to sell your tickets. If you find you want more, please contact Sue Williams who will be pleased to put some in the post.

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*“ Bob & Sue Williams were in the middle of another large puddle ”*

## **MARKETING REPORT (continued)**

On the plus side, there has been a very good response to the 500 Club with 200 members signed up. The results of the first draw were published in Cut Both Ways 51, with winners from Nottingham, Bath and Lichfield. You will find the results of the June draw in this issue.

While we are on the subject of the magazine it is an opportunity to remind you that it is your magazine and not just for the exclusive use of the directors. Have you a story about our canals, do you remember them when they were in use. Could you contribute an interesting article about them? Have you any comments about the way we are progressing? We can't promise to print them all but your letters would be appreciated.

Elsewhere in the magazine you will find notice of the September Huddlesford Gathering; we hope to see you there and if you can help on the day, please ring Sue Williams. There is also information about our autumn entertainment at Whittington in November. We have booked two well-known local entertainers so it promises to be a good evening and once again there will be our usual home cooked supper. So put the dates in your diary now; tickets will be available nearer the date from Sue or myself.

*Dave Moore*

### **Ecology Matters 10**

#### **The Great Barr Schools' Partnership**

The following description was written by Mr Andrew Williams, teacher of Environmental Science at Great Barr School (GBS), Birmingham.

The description explains how the partnership established between the Trust and the School can benefit both whilst making a significant contribution to the West Midlands Community as a whole.

Mr Williams understands that a separate funding stream of up to £850K from HMG sources is available to be disbursed to Bid Partners for collaborative projects. This is separate from development funds already invested in the School.

King Edwards School (KES), Lichfield have expressed an interest in following the same process; I have held preliminary discussions with the KES Head of Science to explore the possibilities of a partnership to support a similar bid for special College Status.

It is hoped that the Trust's investment in education will lead to further funding opportunities supporting future restoration activities. (continued over)

## **Ecology Matters 10 (continued)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*During 2006 Great Barr Secondary School - A Specialist Science and Maths College formed a partnership with Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.*

*The Partnership operates on a number of levels, which will ultimately benefit both Great Barr School and LHCRT.*

*Great Barr School is the largest secondary school in the UK, with just under 2500 pupils and sixth formers.*

*The school achieved designation as a specialist Science and Maths college in 2005. As part of this process the school operates a detailed community plan.*

*This is to facilitate learning and education to the wider community and to help where possible in relation to specialist resources, teaching or learning in partnership with other community organisations.*

*The partnership between LHCRT and Great Barr School is one such project.*

### **How Great Barr School hopes to support LHCRT**

*Firstly to support LHCRT in its important conservation and restoration work. This is through the use of specialist facilities at the school, which LHCRT plan to use, for both training purposes and as a 'hub' for wider partners in the canals network to meet and disseminate information.*

*Secondly by becoming involved with actual conservation work. This will include pupils working on various sites and providing actual practical skills in environmental based work, such as habitat creation and maintenance.*

### **Learning Opportunities**

*The partnership will provide young people from Great Barr School with increased learning opportunities. Pupils studying Biology and Environmental science will have the opportunity to visit a variety of sites that will enrich the teaching of their curriculum.*

*Further to this, those pupils following more vocational educational routes will be able to become involved in a range of practical work related tasks that will fulfil the requirements of their course. History and Geography will also have extensive opportunities to study at sites associated with the canals network.*

### **Wider community involvement**

*Birmingham and the West Midlands have a rich canals heritage. Great Barr School, through this partnership, will be able to provide pupils with greater contact with these real life engineering and environmental projects that LHCRT are pursuing. The geographical location, which is mainly out of the city limits, will provide pupils from the school with the opportunity to visit and indeed work within rural areas, something that will be a new experience to the majority.*

*This partnership will also enable pupils to fully appreciate the importance of the canals network, which will lead to a greater sense of ownership and engagement towards this restoration project. It will also encourage the positive use of these important resources throughout the West Midlands and Staffordshire.*

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## **Ecology Matters 10 (continued over)**

In March 2007 on two successive cold, wet and windy days, parties of a dozen students from GBS, aged in their mid-teens, visited our Darnford Lane site.

Following a period of vigorous and effective brook-side and towpath scrub bashing, Andrew escorted them to the Lift Bridge for discussion and explanation of the canal's history, restoration and future operation. This was effectively an 'Out of the Classroom' lesson supporting one of the currently recommended educational policies promoted by Government and Educational Authorities (and more 'tick boxes' for the Trust!)

The group then moved on to our Tamworth Road site for further discussion.

Judging by the interaction and questions asked there is no doubt about the effectiveness and value of the exercise. In fact since the visit a number of students have asked when they might return to do some more work.

The next visit planned is to assist with the planting of more natural English wild flower bulbs at the Lift Bridge 'coppice' at Darnford Lane, funded by a contribution from the partnership scheme.

*Mike Battison*



Great Barr School at work at Darnford  
(photo by Bob Williams)

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS  
RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.

Presents an evening of  
music and humour with

**Doug Parker and  
Steve Ashcroft**

At Whittington Village Hall, Whittington.  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.30 pm  
Cooked supper included

Black Country comedian, **Doug Parker** has worked as warm-up comic for the 'Parkinson Show' as well as such shows as 'Call My Bluff' and 'Central Weekend'.

Doug will be supported by guitarist/vocalist **Steve Ashcroft**. Steve, who is also a songwriter, combines original material with classic songs from the Popular, New Country and Contemporary folk scenes

**Ticket Price: £ 12.50**

Available nearer the date from  
Sue Williams (01543 671427)  
or David Moore (01543 432718)

**PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW**

# "500 CLUB" Capital Fund

**Become a member of our 500 Club for the chance to win prizes of up to £400 every three months!**

**50% of the 500 Club income will be retained for capital expenditure essential for restoration of our two canals... and**

**50% paid in prizes to its members.**

**The "500 Club" could contribute up to £3,000 a year - or even more - whilst, for just £12 a year, Club Members get four chances of winning prizes of up to £400 - or maybe more each time!**

The "500 Club", which was launched at the beginning of the year, now has 200 members and the Trust would like to thank them all for their support. The winners of the June draw are:

1st Prize	£147.42	No.149	Colin Govier, Burntwood, Staffs
2nd Prize	£96.39	No.2	Bob Mullarkey, Lichfield, Staffs
3rd Prize	£39.69	No.81	Richard Willis, Tadcaster, N Yorks

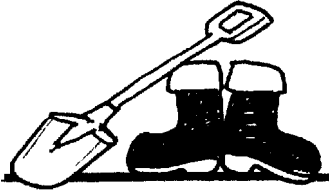
The "500 Club" Capital Fund has been established to raise funds for capital expenditure on land purchase and rebuilding structures on the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals. For an annual subscription of £12 Club Members are allocated 1 chance in each of 4 successive quarterly draws. Based on a membership of 500, the maximum prizes will be:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£400	approx 26% income
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£250	approx 17% income
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£100	approx 7% income

If there are more or less than 500 members, the prizes will be proportionally increased or decreased. So the more 500 Club members we have, the higher the prizes. If you want to subscribe, you can download an application form from our website [www.lhcrt.org.uk](http://www.lhcrt.org.uk), or write to Mavis Moore, 88 Spring Lane, Whittington, Lichfield WS14 9NA.

## HATHERTON CANAL

### WORKING PARTY NEWS



Due to BW's ban following the unfortunate fatality on the Cotswold canals, our workparty scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006 had to be cancelled.

During early November I contacted BW's Safety Officer, Andy Price, and on the 13<sup>th</sup> we walked the length of the Hatherton Canal that the Trust is currently engaged in helping to maintain – mainly cutting grass and hedges to keep the towpath walkable. He saw no reason why we should not continue this upkeep and over the next few days we exchanged faxes and paperwork, putting together a package for us to continue.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, in fair conditions, an eleven-strong workparty met at Saredon Mill Bridge, together with Andy Price as a most helpful and informative observer. Our aim, to cut towpath growth and trim hedges from Cross Bridge to the M6, was achieved despite the obvious extra growth as we had missed a workparty the previous month. In addition, our chain-saw supremo Peter Freakley with three others felled three of the ten or so diseased elm trees adjacent to the Saredon Mill Bridge picnic site. These were logged and left tidy, ready for burning at the next workparty. A satisfactory work session during which we “caught up” and demonstrated to BW that we do operate sensibly and safely.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, again in dry weather, eight volunteers dodged other pre-Yuletide commitments to join our long-established Christmas party. It was good to see our membership Secretary, Trevor Morris, back with us after a hip replacement operation and an absence of twelve months. The morning was taken up with filling in rabbit diggings on the path between Roman Way and Cross Bridge. Lunchtime saw us at Saredon Mill picnic site where the previous month's felled and logged material provided a very cheerful, welcoming bonfire to go with our sandwiches and the now traditional mince pies and glass of sherry. It was thought that Andy Price might be with us again but, in his absence, his share of mince pies and sherry was not wasted.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007 we had seven volunteers and attended to a very large, rotten old willow tree that had been brought down across the towpath and canal channel above Meadow Lock by the gales of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> of the month. This was cut up, cleared from the towpath and channel and stacked ready for disposal at a future workparty.

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## **HATHERTON CANAL WORKING PARTY NEWS (continued)**

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February seven volunteers made a very big bonfire to dispose of the willow cleared last month, plus the logs and brash from two willows fallen earlier in the same area. A really good clear up.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March: Eight volunteers met in sunny but windy conditions to continue felling and disposing of the stand of diseased elm at Saredon Mill. A good start was made, four trees were felled and cut up. By 12.30 the wind had increased greatly and even with all hands, except the chain-saw man, on rope back-pulls it was considered prudent to attempt no further felling. An early lunch was taken round a bonfire but this was interrupted by the first of the afternoon's bursts of strong wind and snow showers. Tackle was loaded at the double, all left safe on site, and everyone home to escape the storm.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, with no grass or hedge cutting yet necessary, a workparty of just six bods felled, logged and burnt the last four diseased elms at Saredon Mill. The site looks very bare along the lane now that the trees have gone, but it was a necessary task and we shall see what natural regeneration takes place before deciding on replanting. It was pleasing to see that the horse-chestnut planted last month, a pot-bound specimen Carole and I found fly-tipped on a bridge above the Essington Branch Canal, was now breaking into leaf. In years to come it should provide shade "under the spreading chestnut tree" for the picnic bench.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May: Only a small group organised as growth not yet in full flush. Tow-path cut and hedges trimmed back, from Roman Way to Cross Bridge. All comfortably walkable.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June: After recent rain and warmer weather growth had become really vigorous. Joe Farren, Carole and I spent a couple of hours ensuring there was a clear path through from Cross Bridge to Oak Lane. We did not attempt the final length to the M6 as time was running out and we did not wish to disturb the active kingfishers. A pint and pub lunch at the Four Crosses proved a just reward.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, our scheduled Sunday date, six regular members worked through from Cats Bridge to the M6, leaving all quite presentable. We received thanks from a couple who use the path regularly – I really must carry some Trust leaflets to pass on. Another task was digging out all the grass and weeds that, over the years, have colonised the picnic bench area. This was taken out three inches deep, down to the polythene underlay, then refilled with fresh wood chippings.

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## **HATHERTON CANAL WORKING PARTY NEWS (continued)**

We are sorry that other commitments now prevent Dick and Chris Mantle continuing their much appreciated mid-week stints with the big HD “pram” strimmer. For several years they have kept the towpath grass short and their work will be greatly missed, as will the long chats we always had about this, that and the other. Grateful thanks are offered to them and to all the Trust’s happy band who turn out in hail, rain or shine to work, and share a lot of laughs, on the Hatherton Canal:

John Clarke, Bill Cole, Joe Farren, Peter Freakley, Sue Grey, Keith Grice, Clive Hensman, Peter Jenkinson, Barry Kenn, Trevor Morris, Mick Ross, Phil Sharpe, George Simonczyk, Vic Stanway and Glynn Whitehouse.

*Denis Cooper*



Environment Agency, Fradley staff work party at Fosseyway.

(photo by Bob Williams)



**Project Part-Financed  
by the European Union**

**European Regional  
Development Fund**

## **FUNDING NEWS**

The second quarter of 2007 has been a time for consolidating our financial position by bringing outstanding arrangements to a satisfactory close and capitalising on the investment. As we go to press, the ERDF compulsory 10% retention is due to be released and will mostly go to pay Staffordshire County Council the final £50,000 for the Lichfield Canal culvert under Birmingham Road.

The roundabout connecting Birmingham Road with a new part of the Lichfield Southern Bypass is now complete and open to traffic with not much to show for the £1/2 million we have sunk in essential canal works underneath. However, Council planners are now paying serious attention to including the canal through the next extension of the bypass to link with London Road in Lichfield. Some funding should result from housing development gain and the complexity of the engineering indicates that some of the canal will have to be included as part of the road works. You see, one thing leads to another.

We are grateful to those who have made donations to support the Trust through this demanding time, especially new contributors who have responded to encouragement given in the last issue. The downside has been poor seasonal weather badly affecting earning opportunities at the summer shows. In our dealings with the Environment Agency, plans must provide for the proverbial 30-year flood. If this is it, then let's keep the Trust "afloat" to be "home and dry" before it comes round again. Then we will be pleased to have that extra water in the canal!

*Bob Williams, Director (Finance)*



Cappers Bridge Plaque  
(photo by Bob Williams).

## DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.**

<b>Name (in order of receipt)</b>	<b>Trust &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>Suchet Appeal</b>	<b>Restoration &amp; Land Funds</b>
Mrs K M Stanier (with sub.)	24.00		
Ms J Fairclough		100.00	
Mr A Spring		1,000.00	
Mr T Dean (with sub.)	25.00		
Lichfield Plastics Ltd (Lichfield Canal walk sponsorship)	300.00		
Mr & Mrs A Hopkins (walk sponsorship)	68.00		
Ms V Turton (walk sponsorship)	61.00		
Mr & Mrs S Clarke (walk sponsorship)	25.00		
IWA, Birmingham, Black Country & Worcester Branch (talk)	50.00		
St. Mark's Men's Club, Shelfield (talk)	29.00		
Ms M J Morrice (500 Club prize)		120.00	
Mr & Mrs M Ainge (anniversary gifts)			160.00
Mr M H L Farrant (with sub.)	85.00		
Anonymous		30.00	
Anonymous		1,000.00	
Mr A Cooper	80.00		
Longdon Over 60s Club (talk)	30.00		
Mr J W Farren (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr L T Flower (with sub.)	40.00		
M R J Buckler (with sub.)	30.00		
Mr D G Lee (with sub.)	100.00		
Ancestral Rescue Club (talk)	40.00		
Mr I Christie (with sub.)	54.00		
Dr E Pringle (with sub.)	35.00		
Mrs T Dudley; talk fees	45.00		
Lichfield Civic Society (talk)	35.00		
Lichfield City Council grant			500.00
Anonymous		500.00	
Mr V J Fletcher (with sub.)	35.00		
Mr & Mrs B C J Hughes		100.00	
Streethay Wharf collection (walk sponsorship)		132.00	
Worcester Birmingham C/Soc (talk)	40.00		
Mr J Lamming (with sub.)	35.00		
Mr P Swindale (with sub.)	65.00		
Morris Ground Golfing Soc. (with sub.)	50.00		

(continued over)<sub>18</sub>

## DONATIONS TO THE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land Funds
Mr F Kelley (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr & Mrs J Faulkner (in lieu sub as LM)	30.00		
Brownhills Community Assoc. (talk)	40.00		
Mr D Tarrant (pledge)			300.00
Russell Newbery event raffle proceeds	506.00		
Braunston Marina; FMC Rally dividend	200.00		
Mr R Ross (pledge)			360.00
Dr I M Thompson	50.00		
Wheelton Boat Club	50.00		
Dr T Hollingworth	244.45		
Mr Brian Kingshott (donated expenses)	413.26		
Mr P C Magee (donated expenses)	75.00		
Mr David Stanistreet			90.00
Regular donors to appeals		1,208.00	140.00
Aggregated donations below £20 each	1,545.99		

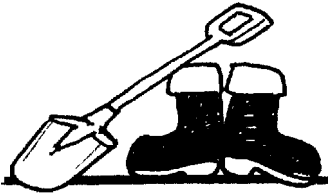
We are very grateful to the following:-

Mr Jack Moody, Essington for consent to use land at Tamworth Road, Lichfield.  
 Birse Rail, Tamworth site for donating quantity of stone from bridge demolition.  
 Golden Waste UK Ltd, Sutton Coldfield for transporting the stone to Lichfield.  
 SMT Ltd, Lichfield for donating supply of enamel canal boat badges to sell.



Brian Davis and crew laying new base for Lock 26 bywash.

(photo by Bob Williams)



## LICHFIELD CANAL

### WORKING PARTY NEWS

Having completed a major round of work at Tamworth Road with several visiting groups helping our own volunteers during the first quarter, our attention has turned to lighter tasks and rearranging the works compound. Mr Jack Moody kindly consented to allow us to use part of his land and buildings by Lock 26. Our works compound has been relocated there, both for greater convenience and to clear the area around the tail of Lock 25 where a new bywash and footbridge need to be built.

The Trust is pursuing enquiries regarding the legal standing of the Severn Trent land drain installed in part of the bed of the Lichfield Canal in the late 1960s to determine its fate. Meanwhile, work has started on rebuilding the open bywash round Lock 26 to “storm dimensions”.

Welcome assistance came in June when a team of volunteers from the Environment Agency, Fradley Office, put in a hard day’s work clearing the overgrowth on a section of the canal by Fossey Lane. They said they really enjoyed doing outdoor physical work but I wonder how soon the novelty would wear off. You did a great job; please come again.

A strange feature of volunteer-led public works is that you get given many things, and have to be cautious about accepting or refusing. Household items come and go easily, but demolished stone railway bridges don’t come your way very often. Travellers in the Midlands will be well aware of disruption caused by the mammoth contract to widen the West Coast Main Line from two to four-track, passing across the eastern corner of Staffordshire.

Birse Rail (Balfour Beatty Group) working on the Tamworth section asked if we had any use for large sandstone blocks from a demolished railway bridge – about 100 pieces – subject to collection. After careful viewing, taking practical advice and arranging transport, the Trust now has 50 tons of dressed stone to use in traditional canal fashion... or part disposal. Our thanks go to all those who made it possible. If you are looking for something special for the house or garden, call Bob Williams on 01543 671427. NB: Buyer collects!

*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



Container relocation by Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd.  
(Photo by Bob Williams)



Demolished sandstone bridge parts donated by Birse Rail.  
(Photo by Bob Williams)

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS  
RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.

Registered Office: 3 Norfolk Court, Norfolk Road, Rickmansworth WD3 1LT  
The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited was established in 1988 as a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee (No. 2456172) and is registered as a Charity (No. 702429).

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

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**PATRONS** Chris Coburn MBE, Dr David Fletcher CBE, Michael Fabricant MP.

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**LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RETAIL TRADING LIMITED.**

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