

# CUT BOTH WAYS



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

**Issue 68 Summer 2011**



With Mayoral approval, Max Sinclair, President of the Droitwich Canals Trust unveils a plaque in Vines Park to honour volunteer achievement over 30 years at the formal reopening of the Droitwich Barge and Junction Canals, 1-July-2011 (see report)

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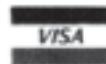
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# **KINGS BROMLEY WHARF**



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## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Canal restoration has reached an interesting and challenging stage after a relatively steady progression which lasted about half a century. We moved from the 1950's where the challenge was to keep open and refresh the waterways which were still open after the post war and post nationalisation neglect. We have to remember that canals which we now consider the backbone of the system such as the Staffordshire and Worcestershire were under serious threat in the late 1950s. Then came the first wave of re-openings with the Stourbridge and the Stratford leading the charge with some triumphant re-openings honoured by royalty. Amazingly, these are now sometimes called the "easy" restorations but certainly not by those who did the hard slogging at the time. Then came the long-term, and ultimately successful, major achievements of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century notably the Rochdale and the Huddersfield Narrow. Most recently, and very locally, has come the reopening of the Droitwich Canals after a long struggle which embraced much of the second half of the last century and the first decade of this. The ceremonies and celebrations of early July were a fitting tribute to this great achievement and contribution to the waterways network.

Volunteers played the key role in all these successes and in the face of official apathy which bordered on obstruction for so many years. It was only later that the attitude of government and officialdom at all levels modified its stance and moved towards something resembling support. The greatest change came from British Waterways which in recent years has contributed so much to all the recent major re-openings. The Droitwich has been a final flowering of a process which has drawn together BW, local authorities, volunteers and the general public to give back to the wider community a priceless national asset. Sadly, the road ahead for other major schemes such as L&H looks much more challenging. We are not alone in this as we look over the fence at the Cotswolds project in particular. It was with all this in mind that we listened with close attention to the address from Dean Davies of BW at our AGM in June.

This was the third time we had held our meeting at the Park View Centre in Brownhills. We greatly value the support we get from local people and officials in this area and the toehold it gives us with Walsall Council. The meeting was well-attended and had a welcome supportive atmosphere for the work of our officers and workers. This was underlined by two substantial donations handed over during the evening.



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

**European Regional  
Development Fund**

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

After the interval Dean Davies gave a fascinating presentation focusing on the current activities of BW and then on its future as it moves to becoming a charitable trust. As we have discussed before, this change will have major repercussions on the restoration movement as BW (with its new name and remit) will not be able to support restoration as it has in recent years. Most significantly, it will not be able to take over and run restored waterways and provision for this will have to be made by the restorers. However, Dean was able to reassure us that BW will continue to be supportive of restoration trusts and will help where it can. Nothing can be sure until the new organisation is in place and its duties and responsibilities made clear but the first priority will have to be to keep the existing network functioning and safe.

Really it means business as usual for L&H with a long slow slog ahead. Nothing stays the same for very long and who is to say where BW and restoration will be in 20 years time. We have our programme to which we are trying to work, driven on by our refreshed engineering team. Phase 1 of the Lichfield restoration is our current priority, much as we would like to press on with Phase 1 of the Hatherton in tandem. We are continuing work at Tamworth Road where the rewatering continues to face some technical challenges which will require further input from the contractor. Meanwhile, below Lock 26 the building of the long wall to the A38 is almost complete and work has started on the section to the A51 which is simpler than previously thought as there will no longer be a Lock 27 at the midway point.

Our engineers have revised the Atkins study so that we revert to the earlier proposal to have Locks 27 and 28 as a staircase east of A51 in Darnford Park. There are several reasons for the change. A major potential cost is spoil disposal and so it is prudent to limit the excavations to the minimum practicable and to distribute it on site. We are currently working with Lichfield District Council who are hoping to find funding for a major re-forestation project for completion in 2012 as a Diamond Jubilee scheme. Nothing is yet finalised but this is both a window of opportunity and a challenge for the Trust as we begin to look at and design the big road crossings of A38 and A51. Obviously, funding will also be a big challenge but we continue to work on the well-tried and successful premise that if we have a project we can raise the money. Even in these straitened times we must be positive.

Vitaly, we must encourage the continuing support of all our members. We know that many people join organisations as an expression of support without intending to get deeply involved. They are valuable both in the financial input they bring and with lobbying as numbers mean power when we talk to potential funders and official organisations. A relatively small percentage get stuck in to help in a visible way. We have engineers, fund-raisers and committee members and the small gang which literally gets its hands dirty. We are grateful to them all but we need very many more as we are thrown back on our own resources. There are so many ways in which you can help and very few actually involve getting your hands dirty. Please make yourselves known to us if you have not already done so.

*Brian Kingshott(chairman)*

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## 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 2011.

Name ( in order of receipt )	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land Funds
Mr A Fisher		30.00	
IWA Lichfield Branch	250.00		
Mr G R Danbury			1,000.00
Mr M G Horton (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr D M Vann (with sub.)	24.00		
Mr R T Willis (talk fee)	40.00		
Mr D A Wight in memory of his late Son			1,000.00
Dr P F Cann (with sub.)	35.00		
Mr T Flower (with sub.)	40.00		
Dr I M Thompson	30.00		
Anonymous	50.00		
Mr R T Willis (private talk fee)	50.00		
Birmingham Walkers Rambling Club	66.49		
Mr J N Potts (with sub.)	100.00		
Mr J W Farren (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr A Marr (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr G Glover	100.00		
Rev I B Cook in memory of "Ambo" featured in L&H website Pets Club	26.00		
Mr J U Signer	30.00		
Mr & Mrs R L Mantle	200.00		
Mr F Kelley (with sub.)	25.00		
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Mr & Mrs P R Swindale (with sub.)	55.00		
Mr G J Kennison	400.00		
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Mr J E Wood (collection & sponsorship)	210.00		
Mrs G Riggs	44.00		
Mr A D Brookes	1,000.00		
Brownhills Local Committee	500.00		
Mr E Humpage	300.00		
Mr J Lamming (with sub.)	35.00		
Morris Ground Golfing Soc. (with sub.)	75.00		
Pelsall Methodist Church (talk)	30.00		
Friendship Cruising Club	25.00		
Braunston Marina Ltd (Boat Rally)	200.00		
anonymous	500.00		
Mr David Stanistreet	90.00		
Mr J Moody (returned property rent)	150.00		

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over £20 from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Name ( in order of receipt )	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land Funds
Mr P R Newman	£35.00		
Returned expenses by Trust officers:-			
- Mr D Dixon	171.60		
- Mr B Kingshott	396.70		
- Mr R O Williams	224.10		
Regular donors to appeals (inc. GA tax)		890.44	421.72
Aggregated donations below £20 each	1,545.81		

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Members 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Mr. C. Carter, Wednesbury	Mr. M. Allen, Walsall
Mr. B. Martin, Stoke on Trent	Mr. A. Tunningley, Lichfield
Mr. M. Golds, Ilkeston	Mr. P. Hallsworth, Pelsall
Mr. S. Cross, Glascote, Tamworth	Mr. D. J. Newman, Sutton Coldfield
Mr. J. Rule, Chester	Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris, Walsall Wood
Mr. A.K. Blick, Cricklewood, London	Mrs. C. A. Bailey, Bewdley
Mrs. V.M. Blick, Cricklewood, London	Mr. B. J. Wilson, Lichfield
Mr. R. Hunt, Hednesford	Mrs. P. S. Wilson, Lichfield
Mr. T. Martin, Lichfield	Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Cox, Wheaton Aston
Mr. B. Cocksey, Lichfield	Mr. A. R. Cooley, Newcastle-under-Lyme
Mrs. B. Cocksey, Lichfield	Mr. E. D. Peare, Fillongley
Mr. M. Wooton, Great Barr, Birmingham	Mr. J. Grindley, Wilnecote
Mrs. J. Horton, Lichfield	Mr. T. Jones, Nuneaton
Mr. W. G. Beynon, Sutton Coldfield	Mr. A. J. Whitbrook, Walsall Wood

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership 1193 (Including 132 Life, 19 Joint Life, 11 Group, 7 Corporate)  
Plus 527 Family. Total 1720. Covenanted Members 64.  
Current Covenant and Gift Aid declarations 796

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

We regret the loss of the following members:-

Dr E. Pringle, Wolverhampton, died 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Dr E J Browning, Lichfield, died November 2010.

Mr E Jarvis, Hammerwich, Staffs. died 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

# "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!

There has been only one new subscription since the March draw. However, one member with four numbers appears to have cancelled the Bankers Order, two others have not renewed, and one has reduced from two to one number. Consequently, 209 subscriptions were eligible for the June draw. Income for this quarter is £627.00, making available prize money of £313.41, a similar amount being retained in the Trust's Capital Fund.

The winners of the June draw are:

First prize	£163.02	No.154	Mr & Mrs R A Smith, Bugbrooke, Northants.
Second prize	£106.50	No.201	Miss Dorothy Robbie, Mottingham, London.
Third prize	£43.89	No.188	Mr. Paul Smith, Studley, Warks.

The "500 Club" Capital Fund has been established to raise funds for capital expenditure on land purchase and rebuilding structures on the Lichfield and 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. Remember, membership of the 500 Club is open to everyone, not just members of Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

So please spread the word. If you want to subscribe, you can download an application form from our website [www.lhcart.org.uk](http://www.lhcart.org.uk), or write to Mavis Moore, 88 Spring Lane, Whittington, Lichfield WS14 9NA.

*(advertisement)*



**Michael Fabricant MP**  
Member of Parliament for  
the Constituency of Lichfield.

If you live in the Lichfield Parliamentary constituency, and you require assistance and think your MP can help, you can either write to Michael Fabricant at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA; or you can email him by using the webform at **[www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk/contact.html](http://www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk/contact.html)** or telephone his office at 01543 419650 where you can also make an appointment to see him at one of his regular surgeries.

*(advertisement)*

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### **Pelsall Festival**

This turned into a major and totally enjoyable event. L&H ran the car park with great efficiency under the direction of Bob Williams. Sunday was very wet and things wound down early but Saturday was happy and productive. The Mayorial Cruise, by courtesy of the Truman Trust, gave an excellent opportunity to brief the Mayor on our scheme. He is both the local ward councillor and chairman of the Walsall planners. We are greatly indebted to the Birmingham Canal Navigations Society for being a prime mover in putting on the Festival and we will hope that we can return very soon.



*BCNS Pelsall Rally on Wyrley & Essington Canal, 11-June-2011*

### **Persimmon**

One of the most useful aspects of recent times has been the Trust's involvement in local planning issues where they affect the canal restoration. We are now kept closely informed of potential developments by planning officers and consulted by the builders themselves. This means that the design of housing developments can go forward without threatening the canal route by taking account of canal requirements from the outset. The result is a generally good relationship between business and the volunteers. We do not seek to influence planning decisions but to safeguard the interest of the Trust. The most recent discussions have been with Persimmon, which continues to nurture a scheme for housing to be built on a section of the bypass between London and Birmingham Roads. For the moment canal interests seem safeguarded and any planning decision could be a long way off.

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### **High Speed Rail #2**

The HS2 “road show” visited Lichfield in June and several members visited the Guildhall studying the details and questioning the organisers. As we suspected, the rail planners were not aware of the Lichfield Canal in detail or the possible implications for the restoration posed by HS2. The scheme was explained and the need for consultation was stressed. We have submitted a careful and detailed response to the consultation and given notice that we will study the detailed engineering proposals with close interest when they are published. Superficially, the rail crossing over Cappers Bridge poses no physical threat but the devil will be in the detail. The Trust takes no view of the desirability of high speed rail but will strive to protect its interests.

### **Huddlesford Event**

The boat gathering at Huddlesford, organised jointly with Lichfield Cruising Club, has become a biennial event. The programme for the 2011 gathering looks extremely promising and we hope that all our members, and the general public, will turn out in large numbers. This will, at the very least, generate much useful publicity and show that we are still very much in business. Details elsewhere in this magazine.



*L&H fund-raising team at work, Pelsall Rally, 11-June-2011*

*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 WORK REPORT

Our small volunteer force has rebuilt the demolished head wall of Lock 26 and is working on replacing brickwork which has suffered deterioration over the years.



*Lock 26 headwall, March-2011*



*Lock 26 headwall rebuilt, July-2011*



Further along Pound 27, foundations for the towpath wall are being extended along the section running in parallel with the A38. This needs to be particularly robust so a massive stone bed will carry the concrete base and upper wall structure.

*Pound 27 towpath foundation  
beside A38*

One interesting interlude came when Ted Humpage, a retired local man turned sculptor offered to purchase at a good price some surplus stone blocks to undertake bespoke commissions. Large workable stones are not easy to come by and his portfolio of work shows great talent and ingenuity. The pictures show the selected stones being loaded in Lichfield and in less than a month (with some extra help), enjoying a new life as a beautifully worked waterfall: note the little fishes round the outside! (see facing page)

## LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT



# LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT



*WRG Training week-end on Lichfield Canal, 18,19-June-2011*



*WRG trainees extend their abilities to bigger machines, 18,19-June-2011*

## LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT

In June, we again hosted the Waterway Recovery Group national training week-end when over 30 of their members were put through their paces on a variety of larger machines than have previously been used. This is to upgrade their volunteer abilities to tackle bigger restoration jobs elsewhere. It is hoped they will return to Lichfield to put these skills to work on our larger project work which is now taking shape for Darnford Park.



*WRG helping to form part of  
Lichfield Canal Pound 27,  
18-June-2011  
Picture by Peter Buck*

At this time of the year, Mother Nature claims her right so sites like the overgrown Fossey Lane need a gardening squad. Occasionally, we get offers of help for “corporate days” when indoor staff can gain some green credentials for community assistance. If this strikes a note with you, please give me a call on 01543 671427.

*Bob Williams, Project Co-ordinator*

### **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 66 are available from Sue Williams

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

Cheques made payable to LHCRT Ltd



*Wildlife soon finds the new piece of Lichfield Canal, May-2011*



*I WA Lichfield Branch explore Tamworth Road developments, 18-May-2011*



*Some of the 120 historic boats at the Braunston Rally, 25,26-June-2011*



*l-r, Tim Coghlan, Bob & Sue Williams, Roger Helmer MEP, Tony Hales, British Waterways at Braunston Historic Boat Rally, 25, 26-June-2011  
Picture by Harry Arnold*

## HUDDLESFORD PREVIEW

Let us look forward to this year's "Lichfield Boat Gathering" at Huddlesford Junction (with the Coventry Canal) on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Last held in 2009, the canal was packed with boats and the fields covered with trade stands and a huge collection of fascinating classic cars spanning a century!



## HUDDLESFORD PREVIEW



This year promises to be just as good with boat, trade and car entries arriving every day. And of course there is a canal trip boat (courtesy of Streethay Wharf) and an all-day barbeque and other delights. Don't miss out; make a note in your diary; get a boat or trade entry form; help us run the event on the day. See our website, or call Sue Williams on 01543 671427.

## HOLLYBANK BASIN (WYRLEY & ESSINGTON CANAL)

The “Wyrley” had a reputation for being a challenging navigation, not because of its notorious bends but due to build-up of rubbish and heavy weed growth. That changed in 2009 when British Waterways had the channel spot dredged, with some additional work in 2011. The W&E is now one of the clearest channels and a pleasure to cruise. With good stopping-off points along its route, together with several good pubs and eateries, the canal now offers more services than many “Cruiseways”.

However, visitors to the Pelsall Rally may disagree as weed growth can be insistent in places. To a boater fresh to these waters a little more attention needs to be paid to engine revs and the prop. In areas of weed the steerer should “throw off” regularly (using reverse thrust & forward, and repeat), that usually clears the propeller without a visit down the hatch.



A particularly interesting development has been the reopening of the long overgrown Hollybank Basin, also known as Short Heath Branch near Lane Head in north Willenhall. Reaching northwards about 400 yards, it served as a coal loading basin, originally for Hollybank Colliery then later Hilton Main, falling into disuse for this purpose from the mid-1960s.

Now, it is again possible to navigate its full length with a deep drafted boat and BW has had new moorings at the far end installed for visitor use. Being a quiet, secure area it offers an opportunity for some residential use to bring fresh life and interest to the northern Birmingham Canal Navigations. A potential site with a lot going in its favour.



“CRANE” captained by Ray White for Willow Wren boats had one of the last loads to leave the basin. Note the lift-off containers which brought the coal down from the pits and then returned to be refilled. In the last days this method was abandoned and coal wagons were shovelled into the boats by hand.

Picture from Ray White / LHP collection.



“Hollybank around 1970/1”. Note the 11 or so boats still lying at the head of the basin after some 20 others had been removed by Ernest Thomas when BW threatened to charge for moorings and licences!

Picture L Hogg / LHP collection.

The same location in 2011



Dredging the Wyrley & Essington Canal in 2009.

The Basin has been fully dredged for the deepest boats and new mooring points have been installed.



## DROITWICH BARGE AND JUNCTION CANALS

The Droitwich Barge Canal was one of Britain's earliest canals by James Brindley, opened in 1771 to serve the valuable salt trade by connecting the town to the River Severn six miles away. Competition from other nearby salt production and coming of the railways led to construction of the Droitwich Junction Canal in 1854 linking with the Worcester & Birmingham Canal at Hanbury Wharf one and a half miles away. With the demise of water transport, both canals were legally abandoned in 1939.



*Some of the 75 boats celebrating the Droitwich Canals event, 1,3-July- 2011*

As long ago as 1973, Droitwich Canals Trust volunteers began restoration work but it was not until 2001 that a more formal Restoration Partnership was formed. Wychavon District Council as land owner, joined with Worcestershire County Council, British Waterways, The Waterways Trust and the Droitwich Canals Trust to restore the canal as a living, working waterway. The total cost was £12.7million funded jointly by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Regional Development Agency, British Waterways, Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council, The Waterways Trust and many others. The project has been delivered by a range of professional consultants and contractors who worked hard to restore the canals to a high standard, ensuring the environment and heritage of the canals was enhanced and preserved.

All Photos in this issue are by Bob Williams unless stated otherwise.

## DROITWICH BARGE AND JUNCTION CANALS



*Part of Vines Park at the formal reopening of the Droitwich Barge and Junction Canals, 1-July-2011*



As with some other successful schemes, it was said to be “impossible”, but it is living proof of what can be done with determination, strong leadership and plenty of money. There must be an object lesson here to bring together a formal Lichfield & Hatherton Restoration Partnership from among the leading authorities to realise the economic benefit that waterway-led regeneration can bring to the West Midlands.

Well done Droitwich!  
It must be the L&H next!

*New staircase locks on the Droitwich Junction Canal foretell Lichfield's future, 1-July-2011*

## CAPTION COMPETITION



### **Notes from the Editor**

This issue's caption competition involves another "man activity", tinkering!

I'm sure you can come up with suitable comments.

This magazine, although primarily to inform members of the latest "goings-on", should be a two-way conduit between members. If you have any snippets of info you wish to divulge with the membership please write or email me and I will endeavour to print your correspondence.

### **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).

### **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.

## HUDDLESFORD BOAT GATHERING

### Invitation to take part in the Huddlesford Boat Gathering

**on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011 from 10am to 5pm**

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust will be holding another boat gathering and canal festival on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in the grounds of Lichfield Cruising Club at Huddlesford Junction on the Coventry Canal near Lichfield.

Attractions will include historic narrowboats, classic cars, puppet shows and children's rides, a good variety of traders and exhibitors, all-day barbecue, cake stall, book stall, bric-a-brac, games etc. Coffee and cake and a licensed bar (with Real Ale) will be available all day inside the Cruising Club. The site will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm, admission £2 including programme (children free) with free on-site car parking.

On **Saturday Evening** there will be musical entertainment and hot supper in the marquee. Tickets cost £10.00 (children under 10 half price) for the evening entertainment and are available in **advance only**. The Cruising Club bar will once again be open. Entertainment will be provided by a local folk group "The Staffordshire Men", more details on the Lichfield & Hatherton website at [www.lhcr.org.uk/hbg2011.htm](http://www.lhcr.org.uk/hbg2011.htm)

Boat entries are invited at £9.50 per boat inclusive of brass plaque & VAT (no charge for historic boats). The entry fee for traders/exhibitors is just £15 + VAT for an outside pitch or £25 + VAT for space inside the marquee. Entry forms are available to download from the website.

For more details ring :

Sue Williams on 01543-671427, or email [info@lhcr.org.uk](mailto:info@lhcr.org.uk).

\*\*\*\*\*

Further Information available from:

Sue Williams (Secretary)	01543 -671427
Mervyn Ainge (Publicity)	01889 -801242
Trust web site:	<a href="http://www.lhcr.org.uk">www.lhcr.org.uk</a>

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## MARKETING REPORT

What a busy quarter when the weather brought us a fine Summer first, followed by a wet Spring! Still, the public seem tired of economic restraint and have attended events in droves and been willing to support our cause. The Marketing Group has been active in promoting the Trust and raising much needed funds.

Walking groups who came to explore our new piece of canal included the **Birmingham Walkers Rambling Club**, the **Friendship Cruising Club** from Sawley and **IWA Lichfield Branch**, together donating **£100** for the pleasure.

In April, the annual **Whittington Green Fair** raised **£145** and the **Woods' Easter Event** an exceptional **£876**, thanks to many dedicated supporters.

With so many events closer to home, it was decided not to attend the distant **Crick Boat Show** this year. However, the notoriously wet Spring Bank Holiday washed out the local **Lichfield Bower Show** thus losing income for May.

June has made up for that with an excellent first day (followed by another wash-out!) at the **Pelsall Rally** where some 130 boats had savoured the northern Birmingham Canal Navigations. Gross income there of **£730** was followed by **£803** at the **Braunston Historic Boat Rally**, breaking another record with 120 historic boats jostling for position in an endless parade! As ever, we are very grateful to Tim Coghlan for his imaginative approach to the event which benefits several charities from a show dividend.

Stretching the quarter into the first week-end of July, the massive **Cars in the Park** event in Beacon Park, Lichfield generated **£571** over two days, largely thanks to brilliant Prize Draw ticket sales. Further afield, Trust members took a historic working boat to the formal reopening of the **Droitwich Barge and Junction Canals** where 75 boats had gathered around Vines Park in the centre of the town. Whilst the stand attracted attention, the main purpose was to promote our restoration to a vast audience at the start of their July Music Festival. This event is so significant that a full appraisal is featured on page 22

*Bob Williams, Director (Finance)*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**We are very grateful to the following donors:-**

Ruttle Plant (B'ham) Ltd, Lichfield, use of site plant.

Waterway Recovery Group training week-end site work assistance.

Mr. & Mrs. K. Hewitt, Hammerwich, for metal detecting.

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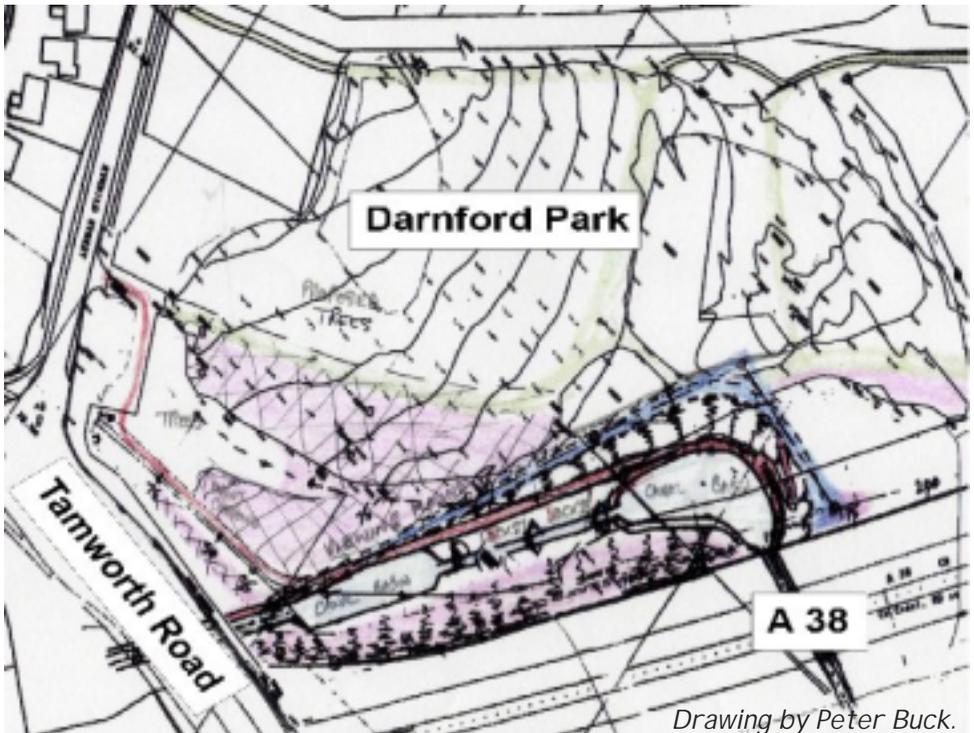
## MONEY MATTERS

### **Borrowcop Locks Canal Park – Pound 26 water project**

People often say of canal restoration that “you must have a section in water”. It seems that our last edition has inspired many members to appreciate that achievement in Lichfield and responded with generous donations. Also, now we are in the midst of the show season, the public at large are more ready to contribute as they can see where their money is going. The usual question is “When will it all be finished?” to which we answer “It’s all driven by money!” The greater the income, the sooner it will be done – read on.

### **Darnford Park, Lichfield**

So our attention now turns to Pound 27 which will have to pass under the Tamworth Road into Darnford Park where new Locks 27 and 28 need to be built as a staircase pair (look at the Droitwich report in this issue). It happens that Lichfield District Council is planning to develop the park as “Jubilee Woodland” in the Queen’s 2012 celebrations giving us the opportunity to incorporate the canal channel first, subject to the usual formalities.



The plan identifies the location and general layout where excavated material could be deposited and landscaped around the tree planting scheme. Why should this be a money matter? Engineering calculations suggest that this unique opportunity to

## MONEY MATTERS

contain excavated material on site could be counted as “match funding” for grant assistance when evaluated against removal to a landfill site as a basis for funding the high cost of driving the canal under both the A51 and A38, and the new locks in-between.

### **David Suchet Thirty Pound Appeal – Phases 1 and 2**

Members will recall we launched this Appeal two years ago which attracted £30,000 in a short time towards early costs. In the light of the unforeseen opportunity explained above, the Trust is extending the Appeal to both the Atkins Phases 1 and 2 towards connecting Lichfield to the national canal network from Huddlesford Junction to Tamworth Road.

Very many have given generously to this Appeal, but there is a new driving force to bring forward work in Darnford Park for first stage completion in 2012. Elsewhere in this issue, we report on the Waterway Recovery Group training at Lichfield. It is anticipated there could be a substantial volunteer input into the required earthworks which can also be valued towards project funding, but plant hire, etc. cost real money. If you do not still have an Appeal leaflet, or cannot access our website for one, please give me a call on 01543 671427.

We cannot let this exceptional opportunity slip through our grasp!

*Bob Williams, Director (Finance)*

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

For the latest pictures, news and on-line ordering of sales items,  
don't forget to take a look at the web site.

**[www.lhcrt.org.uk](http://www.lhcrt.org.uk)**

### FREE WOOD

Following the sale of my cruiser, I am clearing my wood loft. For disposal are off-cuts of mahoghany/sapele-faced plywood, some 4x2ft panels, and some pieces of solid mahoghany, a large piece of cockpit decking, sandpaper etc. FREE - you collect - Cannock. Van or estate needed.

Mike Cooper 01543-502982

(Mike has mentioned "it would be nice" if the recipient made a donation to the trust)

# LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.

Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 1WA

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 Birmingham Canal Navigations.

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**Everything you give us is turned into cash for us, recycled and put to good use!**



**Thank you very much  
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