

CUT
BOTH
WAYS



The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

Issue 69 Autumn 2011



A section of the canal boats moored up at the
Huddlesford Gathering (17th September 2011)

Picture by Paul Marshall

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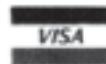
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

When we commissioned our Atkins Feasibility study on the Lichfield Canal we always knew that it would need modification in the light of developments and opportunities. Atkins recommended that we restore the canal in five phases starting at Huddlesford working through Lichfield to the top at Ogley Junction. We have tried to follow this programme and have concentrated all our efforts on the Tamworth Road to Huddlesford Junction section. Inevitably, we find ourselves pushed towards other sections while opportunities exist. The latest example of this is our current round of discussions with planners and developers over their plans for the London Road to Birmingham Road section. It is vital that the trust is closely involved in these discussions to safeguard the route of the canal. There is also the chance that some of the work can be done by the developer.

Meanwhile, our major work continues at Tamworth Road with exciting plans coming forward for operations in Darnford Park. The District Council is working with the Forestry Commission on a scheme to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee which involves re-landscaping Darnford Park and replacing a number of the existing trees and putting in extra ones. Funding for this is yet to be confirmed but if it goes ahead it gives the opportunity, unlikely to be repeated for a generation, for the Trust to carry out major earthworks in preparation for installing the whole section of the canal from the A51 to the A38.

Our existing work at Tamworth Road has now reached the western side of the A51 with exciting progress being made almost daily. Obviously, the tunnelling under the Tamworth Road is a major project which will require funding currently far beyond the Trust's resources. However, we now know exactly where the crossing will be made and so we can work on the eastern side while the window of opportunity is briefly open. The Atkins plan was for Lock 27 to be on the west of the road and Lock 28 on the eastern side. We have now redesigned the section between the two major roads and plan to build Locks 27/28 as a staircase (double) lock similar to one recently opened on the Droitwich. There are many advantages in this and will ensure an approach to the A38 tunnel which is boater-friendly.



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

**European Regional
Development Fund**

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

On the engineering side this re-ordered plan has great advantages. The excavations will produce a considerable volume of spoil for disposal. Removal from the site will incur transport and possibly taxation costs. If we can work with the Jubilee project much of the spoil can be spread on site. A noise bund can be created alongside A38 on which trees can be planted. A sewer diversion can also be carried out during this time again with considerable cost advantages. When completed these preparatory earthworks will enhance the appearance of the park and provide excellent opportunities for recreation. This scheme will be expensive but the works must be carried out at some time and there are many advantages in doing it now. We are researching possible funding sources.

We have set ourselves on a course to deliver Atkins Phases 1 and 2 well within the next decade. Getting boats from Huddlesford to Lichfield is the major priority but we recognise that there are still many physical and financial obstacles to realising this but unless we set ourselves targets we will never make the progress we need. Meanwhile, as noted elsewhere in this magazine, we still have to respond to threats and opportunities outside Phases 1 and 2. We can find our agenda being changed by the demands of developers and Staffordshire Highways. If we ignore these opportunities the whole scheme can be threatened. We are especially vigilant in the section between London Road and Birmingham Road where we have to bring the canal through these major roads when the bypass is extended and constructed.

In all this we are aware that we have put the Hatherton on the back burner but our resources and our small team of active members are stretched almost to their limits. We would like to be working on the link with the Wyrley and Essington near Pelsall where we have a plan to restore part of the Lords Hayes Branch as the approach to our new link which we call Hatherton Phase 1. We continue to monitor planning applications and make ourselves aware of any activity which may threaten ultimate restoration. Denis Cooper and his dedicated little band of volunteers control the vegetation along the section between Cats Bridge and the M6. We would wish to be much more pro-active but our resources are currently too limited.

This limitation did not prevent the combined resources of the Trust and Lichfield Cruising Club from putting on a successful event at Huddlesford in September. The site was busy and filled with interest for boaters and the general public. The weather was kind and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. We must extend our very considerable thanks and appreciation to our team led by Sue Williams and the equally hard-working squad from the Cruising Club. The financial outcome was excellent, topping up our funds at a very opportune moment. Several of our team have been affected by ill-health recently, not to mention encroaching years, emphasising our need to attract more volunteers.

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

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

We live in times which are financially challenging and we are engaged in a project which is cash-hungry. Politically, we are encouraged to believe in self-help within the "Big Society". What the Trust is trying to achieve surely meets many of the criteria. We are not seeking our own financial advantage or self-aggrandisement. We are trying to enhance the attractiveness of Lichfield, Cannock and surrounding areas bringing in considerable economic benefits. We are not just trying to help boaters, so often misperceived as wealthy, but anyone who appreciates, walking, angling or watching wild life. Anyone who has visited the recently re-opened Droitwich Canals will see what can be done and what we hope to do.

We started almost a quarter of a century ago in a spirit of almost blind optimism. Let us now go forward with informed enthusiasm backed up by many solid achievements. There is much to be done and we can surely do it.

Brian Kingshott(chairman)

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Donations to the Trust

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts
over £20 from 1st July to 30th September 2011.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land Funds
Mr H J Y Pringle (with sub.)	105.00		
Mr R W Lloyd-Hart (with sub.)	24.00		
Dr R Henshaw		30.00	
Drayton Bassett Womens Institute (talk)	30.00		
Mr E Humpage	300.00		
Ms B L Smith		30.00	
Mr D P Oldfield (with sub.)	50.00		
Great Haywood Marina (coin collection)	60.76		
Mr N Blears (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr M J Watton (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr A V H Gulvin (with sub.)	35.00		
Mr R A Kilsby (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr G H Thompson (with sub.)	50.00		
Hammerwich W.I. (talk)	50.00		
Mrs L Salter (part pledge)		270.00	
Mr R Hallam (with sub.)	30.00		
Mr C Hensman	76.43		
Mr R A Strike		30.00	
Birmingham Vegetarians & Vegans			
Walking Group site visit	64.00		
Chase Academy, Cannock		confidential	
Mr & Mrs G J Williams (materials)	190.00		
Mr A Spring		1,000.00	
Mr D Shipman (with sub.)	35.00		
Mr R H Jennings (with sub.)	100.00		
Miss D Robbie	50.00		
Lichfield Running Club; water station	100.00		
Mr R T Willis (personal talk fees)	50.00		
Mr D A Gittins (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr & Mrs J A Potter	20.75		
Birmingham Canal Navigations Society, Pelsall Rally donation			1,000.00
Mr C Coburn MBE; IWA Chiltern Br talk	100.00		
Birmingham CHA Rambling Club walk	55.42		
Anonymous			500.00
Mr David Stanistreet	90.00		
Mr J Moody (returned property rent)	150.00		

Donations to the Trust

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts
over £20 from 1st July to 30th September 2011.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land Funds
Returned expenses by Trust officers:-			
- Mr B Kingshott	292.00		
- Mr R O Williams	192.60		
Regular donors to appeals (inc. GA tax)		633.25	1,056.25
Aggregated donations below £20 each	1,109.55		

New Members 1st July to 30th September 2011.

Mr. B. Hurst, Kingswinford.	Mr. S. Stephens, Pelsall.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Walker, Hednesford.	Mr. J. B. Wilkinson, Bassets Pole.
Mr. I. D. McCarthy, Rossendale.	Mrs. Wilkinson, Bassets Pole.
Mr. J. Morgan, Malvern.	Mr. A. M. Hamlyn, Stourbridge.
Mr. and Mrs. B. Acres, Studley.	Mr. R. T. C. Durley, Linton, Cambridge.
Mr. P. Stanton, Lichfield.	Ms. G. Okunniwa, Hednesford.
Mr. R. D. Marsh.	Mr. N. R. Barnett, Sutton Coldfield.
Mr. R. Foster, Shenstone, Lichfield.	Mr. C. R. Lowe, Sutton Coldfield.
Mr. R. Nelson, Lichfield.	Mr. A.J. Rufford, Handsacre.
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Mrs. D. Cox, Lichfield.	Mr. H. A. Shatford, Headington, Oxford.
Mr. D. Rogers, Lichfield.	Mr. N. Dobbs, Lichfield.
Mr. J. Legg, Wolverhampton.	Mr. R. Dando, Walsall.
Mr. E. G. L. Taylor, Lichfield.	Mr. A. Tatlow, Lichfield.
Mr. D. Kershaw, Lichfield.	Mr. P. Davies, Bloxwich.
Mr. R. E. Bowden, Codsall.	Mr. P. Smith, Tamworth.
Mr. L. J. Sylvester, Lichfield.	Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Lowery, Cannock.
Mrs. Sylvester, Lichfield.	Mr. and Mrs. R. Wood, Whittington, Lichfield.
Mr. J. C. Froggatt, Hammerwich.	Mr. P. Hennessey, Napton-on-the-Hill.
Mr. M. Costelloe, Burton-on-Trent.	
Mr. and Mrs. D. Baynham, Sutton Coldfield.	

Membership 1216 (Including 133 Life, 19 Joint Life, 11 Group, 7 Corporate)
Plus 539 Family. Total 1755. Covenanted Members 64.
Current Covenant and Gift Aid declarations 796

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

"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!

Once again there has been very little change in the number of subscriptions to the 500 Club during the last quarter. Please spread the word. Anyone can join the Club, you don't have to be and LHCR member. A rise in the number of 500 Club members means an increase in the contribution to the Capital Fund and also the amount of prize money to be won.

The winners of the September draw are:

First prize	£164.58	No. 127	Brian White, Tamworth.
Second prize	£107.61	No. 73	Mrs. B.J. Kneller, Billericay.
Third prize	£44.31	No. 285	Martin Thompson, Epsom.

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 st Prize	£400	approx 26% income
2 nd Prize	£250	approx 17% income
3 rd 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.lhcr.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** or telephone his office at 01543 419650 where you can also make an appointment to see him at one of his regular surgeries.

(advertisement)

BY CANAL TO RHODESIA AND WALES

No, not Welsh Wales; but we'll get to that later.

Like the rest of us, our narrow boat *Blue Orchid* likes to get away for a summer break. This year she (if canal boats are female, like those on the open seas) decided to take us down the Trent & Mersey to Shardlow, then onto the Trent itself, helped by the current to Cromwell Lock below Newark, where it becomes tidal. We were a bit apprehensive about the big wide river, but needn't have worried – she relished the



West Stockwith Lock

wide spaces after Staffordshire ditch-crawling, and even managed with ease entrance into the huge lock at West Stockwith, below Gainsborough. So far, so good. We were now on the Chesterfield Canal, one of the very early ones, started by Brindley but completed in 1777, after his death. We'd heard it was a pretty canal, but hadn't met anybody who'd actually been there.

Whether from fear of the river passage to get there, or the distance from the Midland canal honeypots, I know not, but we passed very few moving boats (perhaps 5 in all) on our two and a half days and 31 miles uphill to the present end of navigation. For the first 14 miles through

North Nottinghamshire to Retford, never legally abandoned, the canal runs through wide skies and open fields. Between the few locks (one of which has the delightful name of Whitsunday Pie), the navigable channel is nowadays very narrow because of encroaching reeds, which we had several times to clear from the prop. We thought of Bogart and Hepburn struggling under the blazing sun on the "African Queen"!



Gainsborough old warehouses

[All pictures by David Dixon]

Further on, Worksop's western suburb of Rhodesia has a fine canalside pub, just the job for Sunday lunch to fortify the crew for what comes next: the first section of the remaining 15 miles to Chesterfield itself which has been under restoration for some time. So far they have reopened up to the summit pound and tunnel, close to



Newark Castle

an old pit village called – Wales! A spectacular 3-mile stretch has 28 locks, including two double and two triple staircase locks. And all are in good order, being around 10 years old and not greatly used. They are however a tad narrow – with fenders inboard you can just squeeze through. The best bit of history comes near Dog Kennel Bridge, where no less than 32,000 tons of stone from a local quarry was loaded between 1840 and 1844,

then transhipped at West Stockwith into coastal vessels which sailed down the Humber, along the East coast and up the Thames to the construction site for the new Palace of Westminster. (Incidentally, the boats on the canal were horse-drawn throughout its commercial life, which didn't finally peter out until 1956; they were known as "cuckoos").

West of the still-blocked Norwood tunnel (almost as long as Harecastle, though to be shortened for restoration) around 5 miles is back in water, and the remaining 9 miles will follow. They can even use an existing culvert under the M1. Meantime, there is an excellent visitor centre at Tapton Lock, on the northern edge of Chesterfield. They have the advantage over the L & H in that almost all the land is owned by a



Lots of weeds

few bodies, all supportive of restoration; and a lot of coalfield regeneration money has been available. The local authorities, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough in South Yorkshire, are fully supportive. Once fully restored, there is the vision of a new canal for 6 miles down the Rother valley to join the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation to provide a brand new cruising circuit.

In the meantime, it's a fascinating waterway to visit, whether by boat or on foot (the "Cuckoo Way" runs along or close to the canal route for its whole length). More information can be found at the Canal Trust's website (www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk)

David Dixon, August 2011

HUDDLESFORD GATHERING

We held the fifth Huddlesford Boat Gathering on 17th September, once again organised jointly with Lichfield Cruising Club and it was another very happy and successful event. Despite an unpromising weather forecast we had a gloriously sunny day with just one brief shower of rain.



Boats moored for the event leave little room for passing traffic.

Picture by Paul Marshall

On the canal there were over 60 narrowboats, including 25 ex-working boats. The “Friends of Raymond” once again cruised all the way from Braunston bringing NB Raymond and her motor Nutfield to be with us. The steam narrowboat President, always a popular visitor, was also there with her butty Kildare, plus ex-steamer Monarch with Whitby, Kestrel with Verbena and Starling with Ethel. Harbourmaster Mike Morse, assisted by Pat Barton did a fantastic job organising all the moorings. Barry Kenn, Keith Grice and Ossie Cutayar shared the job of running boat trips for visitors on the day boat DAYSY, very kindly loaned for the day by Ray Bowers of Streethay Wharf. We also had three “floating traders”, selling painted canal ware, individually embroidered clothing and hand knitted items.



Artist Ted Hiscock (left) set up his easel on the towpath and chatted to admiring visitors as he painted, capturing the lively scene on canvas. The finished piece will be offered for sale at Ted’s next exhibition. He said afterwards that he had thoroughly enjoyed his day.



Picture by Paul Marshall

The Pinxton Puppets delighted children with regular puppet shows, children from the Bojangles School of Dance performed on the grass outside the clubhouse and two musicians from the Three Spires Morris played live music sitting beside the canal. Parrot Aid was there with Gizmo the famous parrot, star of Film and TV, who had great fun trying out the rides and entertaining the crowd. He even made a guest appearance in one of the puppet shows!



Picture by Paul Marshall

HUDDLESFORD GATHERING

On the field we had over 100 classic cars, now a regular feature of the Gathering and what a wonderful display it was. There were also 50 stalls with sales and displays, steam vehicles and a display of Fire Safety from Lichfield Fire Service.



Picture by Paul Marshall



Simon Cross and his team on the all-day barbecue were very busy serving burgers, hot dogs and bacon baps and the Cruising Club provided coffee and cakes in their "Coffee Shop" marquee. The cruising club bar was open all day serving all manner of cold drinks, including Real Ale from Blythe Brewery.

On Saturday evening we were entertained by folk singing group "The Staffordshire Men", and the ladies of the Cruising Club once again put on an excellent hot supper.

Very special thanks must go to all the members of Lichfield Cruising Club for their hospitality and especially to Frank Weetman, Rose Bell and Mike Smith who worked so hard to make sure everything ran smoothly. We would also like to thank the 1st Whittington Scouts for the loan of a marquee and a number of tables and benches, and Frank Bartlett of the Whittington First Responders for First Aid cover. To everyone who helped in any way, putting up and taking down marquees, organising the car parking and selling souvenir brochures, making cakes for the cake stall, all the dozens of other jobs whether before, during or after the event, our grateful thanks. Without you none of it would have been possible. And of course a very big thank you to all the visitors who came along and enjoyed the day with us.

Not only that, we raised £3,700 for the funds as well.

We'll probably do it again in 2013. Don't miss it!

Sue Williams, Event Organizer



The L&H marquee at the Burton Show attracted plenty of visitors.

Back Copies of Cut Both Ways available at £1.00 Each

Copies of issues 1 to 68 are available from Sue Williams

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

Cheques made payable to LHCRT Ltd



WRG North West and Lo



London help with serious canal building in Pound 27, 2-Oct-11.

FROM HERE AND THERE

The Droitwich Example

Three directors recently visited Wychavon District Council offices to meet the Chief Executive and two officers who were closely involved with the restoration of the Droitwich Canals. Also present was Craig Jordan, Head of Policy, Lichfield District



Council. The idea was to learn from the Droitwich experience and to inform Lichfield DC of what has been achieved elsewhere. It was a very useful meeting and we were most grateful to all concerned. We heard how their Partnership with British Waterways, Worcestershire County Council and Droitwich Canals Trust faced the many challenges. The granting of £1m funding

from both WDC and WCC provided a positive basis for developing a strategic approach that engaged with other interested parties to deliver a determined outcome. A point strongly made was that more attention would be given to making it happen more quickly through empowerment and action, such as getting real support from partners, negotiating hard for land deals, and driving demands for major funding. Benefits are already being seen with economic returns paying back the initial funding.

Waitrose Community Matters

It is good to see that L&H is again one of the organisations being supported by this scheme. A recent visit to the Lichfield store showed that our bin had twice as many green tokens in it than either a local cricket club or a primary school. It is an easy way to raise funds from the public.

Persimmon Developments

Directors have held several meetings with planners and officials from Persimmon Homes concerning their plans to build on Berry Hill. This will involve, if planning permission is granted, building part of the bypass between London Road and Birmingham Road. The canal must follow the bypass at this point and so it is essential that we ensure that the canal can be engineered properly and fully through a very narrow corridor. This is the section which includes the “pinch point”, where a garden extension has encroached on the canal land. It will also include two new relocated locks. We hope that by working with the builders we can get part of the channel installed as part of their works.

FROM HERE AND THERE

Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon Twinning Weekend

Lichfield City entertained a group of visitors from Sainte-Foy (a suburb of the city of Lyon at the junction of the River Rhône with the River Saône.) from 7th to 9th October.



Picture by Brian Kingshott

They had a very busy programme but we were very pleased to be able to meet them at Tamworth Road and show them the recent progress. The group included several engineers and a highly competent interpreter. Also joining the tour were City Clerk, Peter Young and a number of City Councillors. We just had time to walk from Lock 25 to the A51 and then back up Tamworth Road.

Easyfunding.org

Please support the Trust by using Easyfunding as your search engine. The Trust will receive ½p for every search made and a percentage of the purchase price of goods bought on-line from a considerable number of well-known retailers. You will also receive some very useful special offers. It is an easy way to help L&H. With only a few supporters signed up so far we have already raised over £25 by this route.

Volunteers Still Needed

We still need help, especially on the financial side. We have major projects planned and a very short time in which to deliver them. We need help to identify and approach possible funders. This need not be a committee post involving long meetings. It can be done easily from home by anyone who is IT savvy and has internet access. Please come forward if you can help.

Brian Kingshott (chairman)

We are very grateful to the following donors:-

Waterway Recovery Group, quantity of safety equipment, and extensive volunteer assistance with site work.

Jaguar Land Rover Group, extensive volunteer assistance with site work.

Hills Contactors Ltd, Aldridge, trial supply of concrete delivered on site.

GallifordTry at Chasewater, supply of used building material.

R.J.K. Construction (Midlands) Ltd supply of demolition materials on site.

Ruttle Plant (Birmingham) Ltd, Lichfield, use of heavy lifting plant on site.

Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd, Rugeley, transport of site materials.

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

Volunteers come and go, but this season we have had a valuable increase to our small regular workforce. Simon Cross pitched in at every level, but unfortunately for us, he found a new day job so cannot come so often. Then newly retired Rick Walters wants to keep his hand in with life-long building work – and has now become “Rick the brick”, bringing us some tricks of the trade. As if one Rick wasn’t enough, Rick Nelson has become our constant companion in all that we do, with knowledge of mechanics and restoration done elsewhere. Surely “new blood” like this keeps old age at a distance. Now, who’s next? I know you are out there and we really need a bigger “home team” to cope with the ever-increasing restoration work and keeping it maintained. Give me a call.

Since Peter Buck was appointed Engineering Director earlier this year, we have a new driving force with a delightful blend of serious civil engineering ability and good humour, providing a welcome “daily sketch” for the next job. Where water is concerned, we are guided by Derek Lord, retired from Severn Trent Water, but so good that he’s been head-hunted to work elsewhere! Both of them bring long career experience to the team with theory and actual practice just when we need to extend the achievement of getting a section of the canal in water.

Pictures tell a better tale than words, but let me explain what’s going on:-

- ✓ Focus of attention is Tamworth Road (A51) on the south side of Lichfield.
- ✓ Pound 26 is in water, but whilst still subject to tests for proper retention, it gave us the chance to be the first boaters on the new Lichfield Canal!



Jim, Rick Nelson and Neil Machin venture onto Pound 26, 27-Aug-11.



Walls around the 'big pipe' at A38 corner will carry a weir to control the later outfall to the Darnford Brook, 2-Oct-11.



The volunteers leave a recognisable profile for the canal, 9-Oct-11.

LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT

- ✓ Pound 27 has turned the corner alongside the A38, now reaching in embryo towards its future crossing point under the Tamworth Road.
- ✓ The annual Jaguar Land Rover Corporate Citizenship Scheme provided 40 man-days on a variety of labour-intensive construction tasks. Their planned schedule was extended by a week to allow a team of newly appointed young graduates to experience real achievement through manual effort.
- ✓ Between the JLR visits, another 60 man/woman-days came from the Waterway Recovery volunteers by a joint week-end visit from North West and London Groups, also dealing with valuable labour-intensive work.
- ✓ With extra supplies and plant through generous local deals, and especially our outstanding fund-raising at summer events towards cost of materials, towpath foundations have largely been laid, concrete block walls raised, and 32m of rock-filled wire cage gabion wall installed. This forms part of the off-side boundary where the available land narrows so permitting a steeper embankment to reduce encroachment into the canal channel.

All this would have been about a year's work if done ourselves. We are extremely grateful to Jaguar Land Rover for adopting us as their "pet" project, and for the continuing support we enjoy from Waterway Recovery Group. Thank you all; please come again!



Most of WRG North West and London pose for a publicity shot! 2-Oct-11.



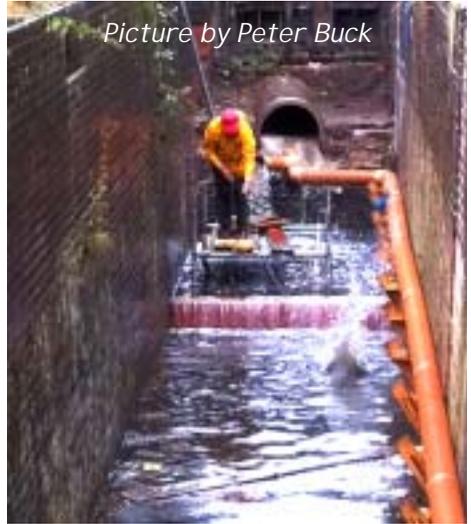
Jaguar Land Rover engineers tackle building an unfamiliar gabion cage wall, 21-Sep-11.



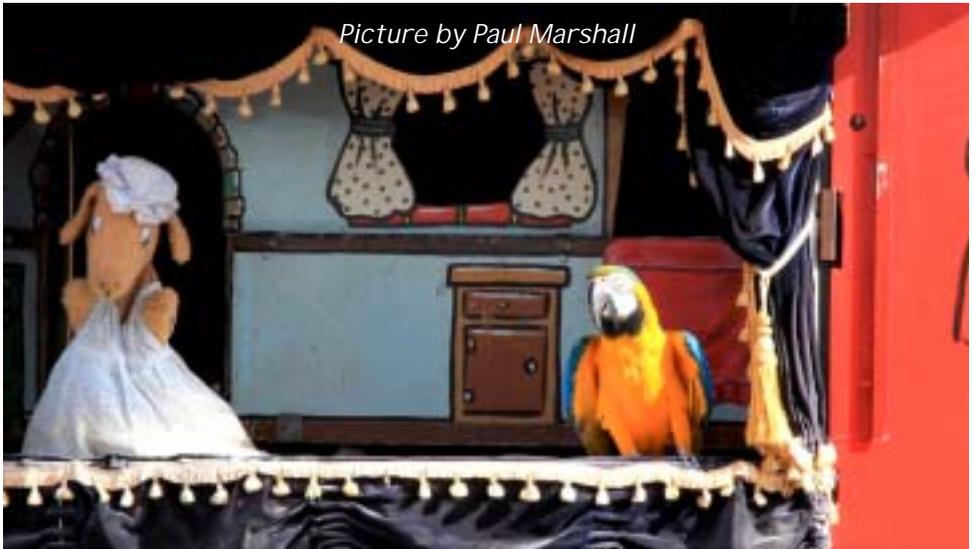
WRG add their expertise to rapidly extend the gabion wall, 2-Oct-11.

CAPTION COMPETITION

This issue's caption competition has two photos which should give plenty of options. To state the obvious for the parrot picture, how about "Oh! Mr Macaw-ber what the Dickens are you talking about.". That should get the old grey cell working.



Picture by Peter Buck



Picture by Paul Marshall

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.

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www.lhcrt.org.uk

MARKETING REPORT

The Marketing Group can be justly proud of their achievement this year. At the start of 2011 the prospects looked decidedly gloomy with talk of recession, redundancies and a general cut back in people's spending money. However, in spite of all this talk, the Group have returned a record profit of nearly £15,000. And, at the time of writing, we still have the Autumn entertainment and Lichfield Christmas Fayre to add to our total. The success of the Huddlesford Gathering held on 17 September, making a record profit of approximately £3,700, was a major contributor. (see report of this event elsewhere in the magazine)

The last Cut Both Ways took us to the Cars in the Park / Droitwich weekend and that was the start of a very busy period. The group had a presence at Lichfield Festival Market (£527 plus ten new members) and the Fuse Arts Fair (£60 plus one new member). A local store collection raised £91 and our stand at Chasewater Railway Charities Day brought in another £90. September began with Whittington Country Fair, a very pleasant local event, which raised £82 plus another new member. A display at the Mining & Local History event at the Museum of Cannock Chase added £52 to our coffers.



The IWA Waterways Festival was a local event for us, being held at Burton-upon-Trent. This year, the Festival's usual August Bank Holiday date was moved forward to July. Our team of volunteers worked extremely hard over the course of five days, erecting and dismantling our large marquee as well as manning the display and sales stands. Together with other local waterways

organisations, we also had a display in the Staffordshire marquee. The weather was good and we successfully raised £644 and signed up 18 new members (see separate item on the FREE membership offer).

In September, Lichfield Running Club's 10k Road Race contributed £100 as thanks to the Trust for manning their drinks station.

At a recent closing meeting for the June Pelsall Rally, organised by the BCNS, the Trust was presented with a cheque for £1,000 for their contribution to the event.

As you can see, we have been very busy but, unfortunately, ill health and lack of volunteers meant that we had to turn down some events. How much more could we have achieved if we had just a few more volunteers. *David Moore (Marketing)*

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.

CAPTION COMPETITION



Notes from the Editor

The last issue's caption competition involved a "man activity", tinkering!

The following comments were received, and I quite like Tony's caption.

"E ek ow the ell am I going to get in the cab" - Rick Nelson

Gladys.....GLADYS.....ITS EATEN MY FALSE TEETH!!!! - Tony Brookes, Solihull

"O'IL SAVE YOU FROM THE BLEFUSCUDIANS IF YOU COME OUT NOW!"
(Ref Gulliver's Travels) - John Laidlar

O dear!! My traction engine seems to have shrunk. Perhaps I shouldn't have left it out in the rain - Stanley Holland, Bournville

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Free Membership offer

Visitors to our marquee at the IWA Burton-upon-Trent Show may recall the board reproduced here which encouraged new members to join. From 18 of you who did that, the lucky winner of a second year FREE is Mr John Legg of Wolverhampton. Congratulations go to him and our thanks to everyone who became members at the show.

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We regret the loss of the following members:-

Mr J. W. Bedingfield, Solihull, died 25th July 2011

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.

MONEY MATTERS

Grand Prize Draw

Whilst drawing the winning tickets at our October social evening will be after the press date for this issue, this is a good time to report that this has been the best ever year for ticket sales, producing an income over £5,000. Our Marketing team worked hard on sales, and members have been more responsive, perhaps motivated by seeing a section of canal in water waiting to be extended. Winners will be published in the next edition, and included in our website.

Darnford Park, Lichfield

As reported in the last issue, plans are being developed with Lichfield District Council for their project of planting a “Jubilee Woodland” jointly with forming an advance channel for the Lichfield Canal. Diverting a sewer crossing the “canal” land will be an early requirement by the Trust where quotations indicate a high cost for specialist work.

This means securing substantial grant funding, but who wants to pay just for a sewer? It has to be an essential element of a much larger project incorporating all the new diversionary route of the canal from previously grant-funded work up to the A38 turn in Pound 27 as far as the future crossing point under the A38 in Darnford Park. Ideally, a round figure like £3m could produce a finished canal with two road under-bridges and a pair of staircase locks. However, we must be realistic and approach the task in stages.

The work being undertaken in Pound 27 – see report and pictures – generates considerable value as match funding to the overall project: that’s what I call “spending the same money twice”. There is a strong prospect that much of the basic excavation and landscaping in Darnford Park can be done by capable volunteers with generous plant hire deals. However, in grant terms, that can also be valued professionally thus supporting a grant funding package which generates real money to pay unavoidable costs, ie diverting the sewer.

All this has to happen over the next twelve months so the race is on! We have very generous members and supporters, but spread across a large number, then “every little helps” if one can only afford a modest donation. An easy way is to add a little (or a lot) to your annual subscription as many already do.

500 Club final payment reminder

Subscribers by Bankers Order to our “500 Club” have now mostly amended their payment instruction to credit our Unity Trust Bank, Birmingham at sort code 08-60-01, a/c no.20256326. Please check that you have done this as the old Marketing Account at Lloyds Bank will be closed later this year so don’t miss the chance to be a winner!

Bob Williams, Director (Finance)



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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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