

# The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

**Issue No. 72 Summer 2012**



*Dignitaries at L & H AGM, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (l to r) Brian Kingshott, Chairman;  
Tony Harvey, Head of Enterprise-Midlands, British Waterways;  
Eric Wood, President;  
John Dodwell, Transition Trustee, Canal & River Trust;  
Chris Coburn MBE, Patron; Cllr Pat Corfield, Staffs CC ;  
Michael Fabricant MP (Lichfield), Patron.*

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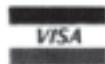
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## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

After many delays the transfer of control of a large section of our waterways from British Waterways (BW) to the Canal and River Trust (CRT) was finally achieved on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. July. It is a major landmark in the history of the management of canals and rivers the effects of which will only become clear after the new system has bedded down. It has been a long journey from the rigidity of state control in the early years of nationalisation to the creation of the new charity through several transformations each of which was more, if often only slightly, friendly to the leisure sector. We seem to have reached the stage where those in charge of our waterways “get it” where the volunteers and the pleasure industry is concerned, even if the means for delivery are not always available. We wait to see if the commitment to restoration survives in the new environment.

CRT is placing emphasis on the use of volunteers in the running of its business which is a very far cry from what happened over several decades of the middle to late twentieth century. Many of us who were active on the volunteer side over that same period could cite instances of the resistance of the BW work force to any suggestion that undergrowth might be cut back or lock gates painted by non professionals. Even the now highly organised and very useful towpath clearances were impossible then. Now everyone recognises that there is more work to be done than ever the in-house work force can be expected to tackle. We can all welcome the change of heart among management and bankside workers alike. A high level of interaction between the volunteers and the professionals is now a welcome fact of life. Even so, there is clearly a major difference between helping to run the major waterway network and restoring derelict waterways with very limited resources and an uncertain supply of manpower.

We hope that stated commitment of CRT to restoration will prove sustainable and be translatable into the kind of support that L&H and other trusts so desperately need. Perhaps the major frustration of managing a serious restoration scheme is the inability to press the “go” button. We know what needs doing and we know how to do it. We have a small band of volunteers and a considerable membership urging us on. The scheme is often called a “no brainer” and a “major scheme of national importance”. Yet taking the first major step towards a programme for re-opening is as elusive as



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## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

ever. It would be easy to say, and we do, that it is the lack of major funding which is the biggest obstacle. It is more than that, although a multi-million pound injection of funds would certainly help. It is more a matter of will and commitment. If only one of the several bodies who support us could step forward and commit to creating a consortium/partnership, call it what you will, and bring together others of influence to get things moving it could all be done quite quickly. We have the engineering solutions and the timetable but there it slows down and almost stops.

This is not meant to be depressing, downbeat or defeatist but realistic. Everyone who visits our major project site at Tamworth Road in Lichfield or sees the plans for work in Darnford Park is impressed and enthusiastic. So much has been done and the work goes forward most impressively. Our volunteers are achieving wonders, often in the face of very considerable bureaucratic obstacles. Yet, if we are ruthlessly objective, at this rate of progress we will not reopen the whole length of one canal, yet alone two, for half a century. The Trust has always set itself the objective of "facilitating" the restoration and not of rebuilding nearly fifteen miles of challenging canal.

As ever, it is easy to set out the problems but infinitely harder to bring forward and implement the solutions. It is easy to see that, at a time when so many people and institutions are under financial stress, raising the profile and income of a restoration trust is going to be difficult. In the short term we must raise enthusiasm and interest. This becomes more difficult the longer a scheme takes. After nearly a quarter of a century the shine of newness has gone off the organisation and its mere longevity can be discouraging. This was a problem faced by the Droitwich and it took a major infusion of new faces and enthusiasm to regenerate the scheme and take it to completion last year.

Where, in that case, do we look for the positivity we need at this critical phase of our existence. Perhaps our AGM in June is a good starting point. As we report elsewhere in this magazine, we had an excellent and positive meeting. Attendance was excellent and the atmosphere was lively and highly supportive. Clearly, there is a will to keep going among the members and for that we are grateful. Our small workforce is achieving miracles and our marketing income remains very good. Your Council of Management works extremely hard to keep the scheme on track and has a clear idea of what must be done. You, the members, are always encouraging and helpful. A strong membership is invaluable although more rolling up of sleeves would always be welcome.

We hope that CRT will be able to support us as BW has in the past. We are, after all, still dealing with the same people. They have been friends and supporters for a very long time. We can only hope that their concept of volunteering will dovetail happily with our own. There is always the danger that their activities will siphon off those who might otherwise be joining in with IWA or even L&H and its fellow trusts. On the other

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

hand we can hope that CRT will actually broaden the reservoir of volunteers to the benefit of us all. For the moment we can only guess and hope.

*Brian Kingshott(chairman)*

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### Our Vision Statement

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

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

## 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 2012.

Name ( in order of receipt )	Trust & Marketing	Suchet Appeal	Restoration & Land Funds
Mr & Mrs R A Strike			30.00
Mr M H Smith			100.00
anonymous			2,000.00
Mrs H V Smith			100.00
Mr B T Johnson			25.00
IWA N.Lancs & Cumbria (talk)	40.00		
Mr M Cripps (with sub.)	35.00		
Worcester & Birmingham and Droitwich Canals Society (talk)	50.00		
Mr D Hargreaves		30.00	
Mr R T Willis (private talk fees)	90.00		
Dr P F Cann (with sub.)	35.00		
Dr J R Massy			500.00
Mr J G Griffiths	40.00		
Mr L T Flower (with sub.)	40.00		
Mr D M Harrison (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr J E Bark			50.00
Miss R Freeman	26.00		
Mr D J Brabner	65.00		
Mr R J Fenton (with sub.)	25.00		
Easyfundraising Limited (online)	23.82		
The Bostock Foundation			1,000.00
Mr K Thomas (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr R Cooke			50.00
Mr P Adds (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr A Pearson			100.00
Longwood Boat Club			100.00
The late Ron Antill memorial collection	500.00		
Mr P K Badger			25.00
Mr J J Faulkner	30.00		
Mr & Mrs P R Swindale (with sub.)	55.00		
Morris Ground Golfing Society (with sub.)	75.00		
Mrs G Riggs			50.00
Mr A D Brookes			100.00
Mr J E Wood			100.00
Russell Newbery Register Ltd			400.00
Blisworth Marina			50.00
Cllr T J Thomas			50.00
Mr & Mrs J Lamming (with sub.)	35.00		

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<b>Name ( in order of receipt )</b>	<b>Trust &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>Suchet Appeal</b>	<b>Restoration &amp; Land Funds</b>
Mr David Stanistreet	90.00		
Mr J Moody (returned property rent)	150.00		
Mr B Kingshott	85.00		
Returned expenses by Trust officers:-			
- Mr R O Williams	217.74		
Regular donors to appeals (+ GA tax)		429.32	4,467.50
Aggregated donations below £20 each	959.17		

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Members 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Ms A. Richards, Whittington, Lichfield.	Mr K. Thomas, Thatcham, Berks.
Mr D. R. Ashworth, Worthington, Leics.	Mrs T. J. Mann, Lichfield.
Mr C. Raybone, Lichfield.	Mr C. Mann, Lichfield.
Mr and Mrs R. G. Larkin, Lichfield.	Mr P. J. Adds, Long Buckby.
Mr F. Walters, Lichfield.	Mr D. Machin, Aldridge.
Mrs D. C. Dunham, Gt. Yarmouth.	Dr F. B. Frost, Brownhills.
Mr A. M. Hosie, Bilston.	Mr P. D. Corbett, Chorley, Lancs.
Mr J. Horn, Aberdeen.	Mr T. Mann, Cosby, Leics.
Mr D. Walker, Bolsover, Derbyshire.	Mr D. M. Crossman, Yatton, Bristol.
Ms J. Dickinson, Tettenhall Wood, Wolvh.	Mr B. Wilkinson, Sutton Coldfield.
Mr and Mrs A. J. Lafford, Bednall, Staffs.	Mrs J. Wilkinson, Sutton Coldfield.
Mr M. E. Duley, Coleshill, West Midlands.	Mr H. S. Millington, Lichfield.
Mr D. P. Watts, Kennington, London.	Mr L. J. Emery, Brownhills.
Ms J. Peck, Lichfield.	

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership 1245 (Including 135 Life, 20 Joint Life, 11 Group, 7 Corporate)  
 Plus 556 Family. Total 1801. Covenanted Members 64.  
 Current Covenant and Gift Aid declarations 796

\*\*\*\*\*

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

- Ruttle Plant (Birmingham) Ltd, Lichfield, heavy lifting plant on site.
- Chase Plant Hire Ltd, assistance with site machines.
- Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd, assistance with site materials.
- R.J.K. Construction (Midlands) Ltd, supply of site materials.
- Clarke Construction Ltd, Brownhills, assistance with site work.

\*\*\*\*\*

# "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 little change in the number of '500 Club' memberships since the last Cut Both Ways. Some memberships have lapsed so currently there are 206 active numbers. If you have usually paid by cheque and think you may have overlooked your 2012 payment, please let us know.

The winners of the June draw are:

First prize	£160.68	No 74	Mrs B.J. Kneller, Billericay
Second prize	£105.06	No 66	Mr G.R. Danbury, St Albans, Herts.
Third prize	£44.26	No 247	Sue Williams, Hammerwich, Staffs.

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.lhcr.org.uk](http://www.lhcr.org.uk), or write to Mavis Moore, 88 Spring Lane, Whittington, Lichfield WS14 9NA.

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**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)*

## CANAL AND RIVER TRUST

As the Chairman reports in this issue, British Waterways legally became Canal and River Trust on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012. To mark the occasion, formal events were held in many parts of the UK when Trustees and local representatives celebrated the momentous change from a national corporation under the Government to Charity status run by Trustees. Such an event was held in Birmingham City Centre, and another at Fradley Junction where the L&H “nailed its colours to the mast” as it were for the future.

*Trustees celebrate the launch of Canal and River Trust in Birmingham, 12-Jul-12*



*nb “Barnet” flying the flag for LHCRT at the Birmingham Event, 12-Jul-12*

## THAMES PAGEANT

*Cllr & Mrs Derrick with Ian Dudson, Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire at President's send-off to the Thames Pageant, Fradley, 22-Apr-12.*



## THAMES PAGEANT

“Wet” and “Cold” come to mind...We (my son and I) were lucky to find a space on Albert Embankment about 3 hours before it started, third back but with short people in front of us! The best section, apart from HM and the narrow boats of course, were the rowers - dozens of little boats, all the oarsmen rowing hard - even a Victorian lifeboat. We saw them all approaching through the arches of Vauxhall Bridge, and going away through Lambeth Bridge with the Houses of Parliament etc beyond. We felt sorry for the singers on the open top deck of the last boat, with the London Philharmonic Orchestra playing away under cover below them! A great event. Maybe we should organise something similar on the Trent?!

*David Dixon (Land and Property Officer)*



*nb "President" built in 1909, with a full head of steam.*



*Convoy of narrow boats taking part in the pageant.*

# LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT

## **Pound 26 – in flood**



Drought? What drought? In this Jubilee Year, it seems to me we have “The Rain of Queen Elizabeth” to thank for keeping Pound 26 fully topped up almost all the time, and now regularly overflowing. The force of water in the bywash has been strong enough to wash concrete blocks from one end to the other! It really adds to the ambience of being a real canal, also helping with flood attenuation downstream.

## **Pound 27 by Tamworth Road**

Closer to the A51 Tamworth Road, the Trust is very grateful for professional help in laying a substantial concrete base to form a narrow point so that stop planks can be inserted to separate wet and dry sections pending the future road crossing into Darnford Park. The plan includes reusing a set of original massive stone blocks recovered from elsewhere on site after the canal was abandoned and partially levelled.



*Professional help laying the substantial concrete base to form the narrows*

## LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT

Weir construction at the A38 corner in Pound 27 is now complete, apart from any water flow yet. A system of pipes has been incorporated in the brickwork for variable



graduation of the base flow entering the canal to pass into Darnford Brook as demanded by the Environment Agency. Attention now turns to adding a blue brick facing to the concrete block towpath wall.



*Picture is by Andrew Hopkins*

# LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT



*Professionals add finishing touches to the narrows base, 18-Jun-12.*



*Selection of original lock stones to be used in the walls of the narrows.*

## LICHFIELD CANAL WORK REPORT

Over the week-end of 23/24<sup>th</sup> June, Waterway Recovery Group held their annual skills training again this year at our Tamworth Road site. Over 30 volunteers came to gain new or enhanced experience on a variety of plant and equipment, abilities which will be needed to undertake more demanding work on many of the restoration schemes elsewhere in the country.

*Bob Williams, Project Co-ordinator*



*Picture by Peter Buck*



New volunteers are always welcome, Tracey joining the gang definitely brings down the average age of the regulars! Her comment on the first day was "I've really enjoyed myself!" so why not come to have a go yourself: there is so much to do, and plenty of variety to suit all abilities.

# The Lichfield Canal

This map should help in locating the main features, but please note that some sections are on private land.





## PROMOTIONS REPORT

It has been a busy summer at the “shop front” attending a full schedule of shows to continue promoting the Trust and raise more funds. The selection of pictures highlights the main events which generated gross income of £3,600 and a good number of new members. However much we promote canal restoration, many local residents still know little or nothing about it, so the PR exercise alone is very valuable.



*New volunteer Keith Dibble joins the sales team at the Crick Boat Show, 2/5-Jun-12.*

*Poor weather diminished the crowds at Lichfield's huge “Cars in the Park” event, 30-Jun/1-Jul-12.*



*Visitors to LHCRT Marquee at the Lichfield Festival and arts FUSE week-end 7/8-Jul-12.*

## PROMOTIONS REPORT



*Tony Hales, Chairman, British Waterways (now CRT) presents a donation from Tim Coghlan, Braunston Marina (right) to Bob Williams and Hilary Smith on L & H stand at Braunston Historic Boat Rally, 23-Jun-12.  
(photo by Harry Arnold, Waterway Images).*



*The Lichfield Festival and arts FUSE week-end always draws large crowds, even bringing an Olympic Torch to the public! 7/8-Jul-12.*

## MONEY MATTERS

### **Lichfield Canal, Phases 1 and 2**

Planning wisdom demands flexibility for review and modification as events unfold. People sometimes ask us “Why can’t you start at one end and just work your way along?” but it does not work like that: we have to do what we can where we can in given circumstances. The Trust adopted the Atkins Report recommendation to work in phases from 1 at Huddlesford Junction (east) to 5 at Ogley Junction (west), thus concentrating on Phases 1 and 2 to restore the connection from the Coventry Canal into Lichfield first.

Whilst it seemed appropriate to direct funding to one or other of these phases, in reality they are inter-dependent in terms of what work can be undertaken at any given time. Apart from expected land acquisition in Phase 1, the situation has evolved where there are reasons why work cannot begin there for quite some time ahead. However, extensive formalities have reached a point where enabling work for the new diversion through Darnford Park in Phase 2 can start now, beginning with an alternate car park to permit contractor access.



*Setting out temporary alternate car park in Darnford Park, 14-Jul-12.*

It is very disappointing to report that grant applications made towards this work of £50,000 from the Lottery Reaching Communities Fund and £30,000 from Staffordshire Environmental Fund have both been declined as “not meeting their needs”. Other possibilities are being researched but any approval always takes many months – if at all!

## MONEY MATTERS

Faced with the difficult decision whether or not to defer the Darnford Park project or make best use of funds already held, the Board decided to apply the David Suchet Thirty Pound Appeal and Diamond Jubilee Appeal initially on Phase 2. Both these appeals will continue to run, and with a much greater onus now on the Trust to raise its own funds in absence of available grants, we ask members to consider again supporting these appeals for work to continue.

**More details and payment methods are given on our website:** [www.lhcr.org.uk](http://www.lhcr.org.uk), **or just write to the Finance Director noted on page 30.**

### **SITA Enriching Nature**

A different opportunity is being pursued to obtain funds for a very specific project to improve parts of the canal as lowland heaths. This not only answers a national call to reintroduce lost habitats but also could support some canal restoration work. This can only be applied to certain parts of the Lichfield Canal around Darnford Lane and Fossey Lane sites, and would not help with Darnford Park noted above. A very detailed application for £31,200 compiled by Geoff Crook and Peter Buck has been submitted, drawing a response for site visits by a SITA Project Officer. If successful, grant funding will not be available until the Autumn when it is hoped that this specific work can be undertaken in the winter months.

### **Lichfield District Council, Section 106 Fund – Pound 27**

We are pleased to learn that approval has been given for £20,000 grant funding aimed specifically at further development to bring the canal channel below Lock 26 by the Tamworth Road, Lichfield into water. As usual, work should not start on a “grant project” until it is approved – in case it isn’t! Consequently, whilst work on this section has been ongoing for a few years, we have to be clear as to what parts we can develop aside from the grant specification. Details of such work are given in the Work Party Report in this issue.

### **Marketing and Promotion**

Much of our own fund-raising comes from the efforts of the Marketing Group who have attracted £8,000 in the first half of this year, about 50% of last year’s total. However, unlike 2011 when there were several lucrative shows in our area, 2012 is a comparatively fallow year so we cannot expect to do so well – just when we need the money – so back to the top of the page and think again!!

*Bob Williams, Director (Finance)*

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## **MEET ON THE LEDGE**

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**Non Members Welcome**  
**Bring your own drinks & glasses**

**All funds raised go to LHCRT**

## TRUST AGM

Most organisations have to hold their annual general meetings and this can often seem a boring chore. The main problem is to attract a quorum of members to make the process proper and legal. This has never been an issue with L&H no matter where or when we hold the meeting. Members turn up in reassuring numbers, take a close interest in proceedings and even seem to enjoy themselves. Consequently, our AGM is an enjoyable and reassuring experience. In recent years we have invited visiting speakers to address us after the interval and this has added to the value of the experience. In recent years we have met at the Park View Centre, Brownhills



which is an ideal venue with good parking and is centrally placed between our two canals.

This year we met on 15<sup>th</sup> June and attracted an attendance in excess of 50. We were especially lucky that several prominent people accepted our invitation to attend.

Our Patron, Michael Fabricant MP, sat at the front and chipped in with predictably lively and helpful interventions. At the back was another of our Patrons, Chris Coburn, who also made a valuable contribution to our discussions. Tony Harvey from British Waterways, a long-standing friend of L&H sat at the front while further back was County Councillor, Pat Corfield, a cabinet member who represents central Cannock. There was, of course, some very valuable “networking”.

Our routine business progressed smoothly, welcoming Geoff Crook as a new Director, and then we were able to welcome our principal guest, John Dodwell. John has a very long pedigree of interest in our inland waterways and has recently been appointed an Interim Trustee of the Canal and Rivers Trust which has now taken over from British Waterways as custodian of a large portfolio of inland waterways. A transcript can be found on the news and noticeboard pages of the L&H website along with the other AGM reports. John was able to give us a very useful insider view of the big shake-up in the running of our waterways and some reassurance that restoration and regeneration will not be overlooked. There was a lively and useful question and answer session at the end and many seemed reluctant to go home.

*Brian Kingshott(chairman)*

## CAPTION COMPETITION

Last month's caption competition featured a bit of ground movement.

"Canal Restoration is not all it's cracked up to be" - Mervyn Ainge

"Perhaps selling the fracking concession wasn't our most effective fund-raising idea". - John Potter, Stafford

"You know that place where the canal starts to go downhill.....shouldn't we have built a lock there?"  
Bob Conduct (Life Member LHRCT)

I think John Potters' was a "fracking" good caption



This month's caption competition features a pair of "athletes" trying for the "bolt cropping" event. See if you can do better.

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## FROM HERE AND THERE

### **What IS restoration?**

With the new waterways trust now in charge of the waterways network there has been a blitz of publicity and that was to be expected. The Canal and River Trust (CRT) needs a high public profile and needs to raise much of its own funding. It compares itself with the National Trust but this is a somewhat confusing analogy. Involving the general public which is largely unaware of canals and is often indifferent to their future is a big challenge. However, there must be an implication for the existing voluntary sector. CRT is looking to build up a large membership base yielding subscription income and is also appealing for funds for specific projects. In the Birmingham area it is seeking funding for the “restoration” of the famous King’s Norton Stop Lock and in Shropshire it is raising money for the Ellesmere waterways workshops. There are many similar schemes across the country. All this is worthwhile but it does mean that there is now a major and professional organisation entering the already crowded funding market. Our own operations are currently dependent on the generosity of our donors and may be affected by this development. CRT says, and we are not doubting this, that it will support restoration but the question must now be – what IS restoration. We see it as the reopening of disused waterways but if CRT sees it as a way of maintaining its ancient and decaying structures the future may not be as rosy as we hoped.

### **Funding**

Following on from the CRT funding issue, L&H is about to find its finances under considerable pressure. We have two projects which must be funded within the next couple of months. We have an essential land purchase negotiation approaching completion after several tortuous years and we will publish the details when the documents are signed. Then we have the big venture in Darnford Park which must be progressed immediately and will pose a serious demand on our reserves. We can find the necessary money but it will leave us without any reserves to deal with any other sudden demands. Our hopes of finding grants to fund Darnford Park were dashed although we will continue looking. Income to our own appeals is slowing down after a good flow over many years from generous supporters. We will do all we can to rejuvenate our income streams but times are hard for many.

### **Can you help?**

Of course donations will always be most welcome but we understand that this can often be difficult. A steady income stream which keeps us going comes from our retailing activities. We take our stand to events and shows where we can sell goods, raffle tickets and memberships. This requires our members to run the stand and to “sell” the Trust. Sadly, our dedicated band in the Marketing Group is diminishing in size through illness and encroaching age. We desperately need new people to come forward and offer just a few hours per year. Staffing for one event would make all the difference. Next year we intend to make our biennial Huddlesford Gathering of Boats (jointly with Lichfield Cruising Club) a major event to commemorate 25 years since

## FROM HERE AND THERE

the founding of the Trust. It could and will be fun! If anyone would like to know more please contact Bob Williams (01543 671427) or Brian Kingshott (01547 530457).

### **LDFs / Local Plans**

An essential part of our behind the scenes activities is monitoring the whole complex planning process. Key to this in recent years has been the drawing up of Local Development Frameworks by the district Councils. Our canals run through four districts and so this can be quite demanding in a process which has now been running for many years. Inclusion of the route of the canal in an LDF is an essential means of protecting the canal track from development. Just as this process was approaching completion the coalition government set about a radical change of the whole planning process hoping to slim it down and achieve simplification. The outcome for L&H has been the changing of LDFs back into the Local Plans which they replaced. We are keeping a close eye on this to ensure that the safeguards we achieved in the LDFs are carried forward. There are also implications for restoration at a national level as previous safeguards are changed or merged into the new processes.

### **HS2**

The Trust continues to monitor the plans for building the high speed railway which will cross the Lichfield Canal at Cappers Lane. We are attending the local consultation meetings and making comments as appropriate. The Trust is not opposing construction but is ensuring that its interests are in no way compromised.

*Brian Kingshott(chairman)*

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We regret the loss of the following members:-

Mr P Hart, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, died 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

Mr M J Watton, Lichfield, died February 2012.

Mr A T Smith MBE, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, died 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

*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*

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### **Membership rates are:**

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Family Life Membership £300 (includes children up to age 18).  
To join, please contact the Membership Secretary (see address page).

### **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

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

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

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