



Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited

Founder and President: J. Eric Wood Vice-President: David Suchet CBE
Patrons: Chris Coburn MBE; Dr David Fletcher CBE; Michael Fabricant MP

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR 2011

2011 began with great excitement as we looked forward to the watering of Pound 26 and that happy mood continued throughout the year as plans began to take shape to continue the restoration through into Darnford Park.

We gained one new Director at last year's AGM when Peter Buck, the Lichfield Cruising Club representative and also a member of the Engineering Group joined the Board of Directors, bringing the total to 10.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Finance Director and Engineering Director, often accompanied by other Directors and Officers in support, attended numerous meetings with local authorities, planners and environmental bodies to further the Trust's cause.

Our Vice-Chairman and Land Officer David Dixon was kept very busy maintaining contacts with landowners and dealing with any planning applications affecting either of our two canal routes. The proposed high-speed railway, HS2 will cross our route immediately above Cappers Lane Bridge; not a problem so long as there is sufficient height for road vehicles below the railway viaduct to avoid reconstruction of the road bridge. The Trust responded to the government's consultation drawing attention to this issue and plans are being monitored as they unfold. Negotiations to purchase land around lock 30 have been stalled several times but meetings are continuing to find a solution satisfactory to all parties.

Our volunteer work parties on the Lichfield Canal have worked very hard to transform the area around Locks 25 and 26 which has earned many well deserved compliments. Denis Cooper and his team on the Hatherton canal diligently keep the grass and hedges cut and foot paths in a safe order for the public to walk.

The Marketing team attended 22 events during 2011 including the very enjoyable Pelsall Canal Festival, the IWA Waterways Festival which of course was very local to us at Burton-on-Trent and our own Huddlesford Gathering. In beautiful Easter weather Eric & Doreen Wood hosted their annual Coffee Morning and BBQ at Whittington Wharf raising over £900 for Trust funds. In July Bob Williams and Laurence Hogg with help from Mike Brown took NB Barnet to Droitwich to represent L&H at the official opening of the Droitwich Canals. Assisting on the Trust stand in Vines Park were Brian & Alison Kingshott, Trevor Morris, Mervyn Ainge and local L&H members David Mills and Martin & Teresa Allsopp.

Membership records show that we ended the year with 1,763 members, a gain of 63 during the year.

The combined Marketing and Trading profit for a very busy year was £16,800.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported us throughout the year.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:
S. P. Williams, Director & Secretary
15th June 2012