

CUT

BOTH WAYS



The Magazine of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

Issue No. 79 - Spring 2014



Lichfield Mercury Bower Queen, Savannah Bennett and Deputy Bower Queen, Charlotte Aspley cut the ribbons to officially open the disabled-friendly section of the Lichfield Canal Heritage Towpath Trail (see page 14).

STREETHAY WHARF LTD.

LICHFIELD

Heart of the Coventry Canal

TEL:01543 414808 MOBILE:0782 4848444

FAX:01543 414770

www.streethaywharf.co.uk

7-DAY CALL OUT SERVICE

GEN SETS FITTED

DIESEL AND SOLID FUEL STOVES FITTED

BOTTOM BLACKING

REPAINTING AND SIGNWRITING

NEW BOATS FULL & PART FIT-OUT SUPPLIED

ALL MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL WORK

FULL CHANDLERY

STRETCHING AND REBOTTOMING

GAS SAFE. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

ALL STEEL WORK AND TANKS

Support the boat yard on the “Lichfield Ring”

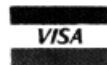
Boat Transport, England, Europe ●Crannage Arranged

Site Surveys ● Complete Service for DIY ● Repairs

Boat Hire ●Boat Fitting ●Diesel Pump Out

● Mooring ● Boat Sales ● Laundry

Trent & Mersey Canal



V.A.T No. 133609427

I have recently written my annual review of Trust activities which forms part of the submission of the financial report for the year ended December 2013. An important section is setting out the work done by Trust Directors and thanking them for all they do. This is a valuable exercise for me because it draws into focus just how much they and our officers do in the course of a year. Beyond this, lies the input of our various work teams who do so much but are out of the publicity spotlight. All our progress is made by volunteers who work mostly at their own expense. It is this aspect which everyone should keep in mind when looking at what has been done over a twelve month period. So often volunteers work harder, do more and put themselves through greater inconvenience than those in paid employment.

I try to visit our work sites at regular intervals but I recently particularly enjoyed a conducted tour of Tamworth Road in the company of our engineer, Peter Buck. The efforts made by Terry Brown and his growing band of workers were truly impressive. From Lock 24 to the A51 a "real" canal is taking shape with the prospect of watering not far away. The standard of the construction is at the very least professional and we can all stand in the reflected glory of what has been done. This is only a short section of a seven mile canal and it has taken a quarter of a century to achieve but a momentum has been established which can only increase. The membership and the wider public must now see that the Lichfield Canal will soon emerge from its long sleep.

Of course, work continues elsewhere even with less obvious and dramatic results. The Hatherton is always on our agenda and we know that Denis Cooper and his team continue to maintain and improve the section from the Roman Way to the M6. David Dixon recently led a walk for members of the Inland Waterways Protection Society along as much of the canal as can be reasonably accessed and this showed our continuing commitment. Increasingly we are turning our attention to the section of the Lichfield from Lock 18 (one of our earliest restoration projects) to "Railway Turn where we will construct a channel within the footprint of the southern bypass. Further on, we are looking at schemes to get under the cross-city railway towards London Road and then on to Cricket Lane. We still use our Atkins report as the phased basis of our work but, as we always knew, the exact requirements of engineering will bring about departure from Atkins and some modification.

Our Vision

**To reinstate the historic Lichfield and Hatherton Canals
for the benefit of the community.**

**The natural wildlife corridor from Huddlesford to Hatherton will provide
a valuable amenity for walkers, cyclists, boaters and visitors to use
and will bring prosperity to the area.**

**This project will also provide an opportunity for young people to learn about our
history, our heritage and our environment.**

Continuing the theme of hard working directors, officers and “activists” we now have John Bryan as a director concentrating on our sales, promotions and exhibitions activities. He is bringing a new professionalism to this work.

Tom Reid is our press officer and is feeding material to the local media. Meanwhile, Paul and Beverley Marshall have revamped the website and keep it fully furnished with new material. If you have not recently looked at the website I strongly recommend that you do so. As ever, if one starts to list individual achievements there is the danger of leaving someone out and I must stress again that we have a robust and growing team of hard-working volunteers.

This impressive account of activity also draws attention to the continuing need to tell our story to the general public and to attract new membership. Our temporary occupation of an otherwise empty shop in central Lichfield has helped greatly. We have had limited opening hours through the winter but it has brought over a thousand people through the door to view the displays and to talk to our staff. It has also brought in a useful trickle of new members. Some have even joined our volunteer force or offered useful professional and technical services. The opening hours are very dependent on a very small team of helpers and if anyone wishes to give a few hours please let us know.

Once again it is almost AGM time. Details, agenda and outline accounts can be found further on in this magazine. Please join us if you can. Attendance is always good and the atmosphere is friendly and supportive. Each year we invite someone who is actively involved in waterways restoration to talk to us after the interval. This year we will welcome Brian Nelson, Vice-Chairman of the Shrewsbury and Newport restoration scheme. It should be fascinating to hear how they are tackling their scheme which is every bit as challenging as ours. Our membership of the Staffordshire Waterways Group keeps us in touch with the dozen or so projects which are operating within the county. (Although much of the Shrewsbury and Newport is in Shropshire some is within Staffordshire).

Meanwhile, the more observant members will have noticed that our mission statement which appears on the Chairman's Page has been redrawn. The original has been in place for many years and has served us well. These statements are surprisingly difficult to put together and the new version has been gestating for many months. We felt the change was necessary to reflect the changing attitudes of waterways' users and of potential funders. Controversial though it may be it is now sensible to show that canal restoration is seen as “inclusive” and not the sole preserve of boaters who can be represented as exclusive and well-off. It does not mean there has been any material change in the ambitions of the Trust simply an adjustment in the way we show ourselves off to the wider public.

All Correspondence should be addressed to :- Trust Secretary,
Mrs D Hancock, 2 Elias Close, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9TX

I have expressed our appreciation of all the work done by our active membership. As with any voluntary body they are only a small percentage of the whole. We are similarly grateful to our "armchair" members whose tacit support and membership fees are vital to our work. The income from them is the core funding for what we do and a growing total of membership strengthens our lobbying potential. As someone once said "we are all in it together".

Brian Kingshott(chairman)

Canals are a vital part of our industrial heritage

says Staffordshire Euro MP Phil Bennion

Staffordshire's Liberal Democrat Euro MP is Phil Bennion, a longstanding member of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

"I am delighted to support Cut Both Ways and the work of the Trust, now as a county MEP. Canals are not only a vital piece of industrial heritage but restoration has considerable potential to boost the local economy through tourism. I hope we can follow

other projects across the Midlands such as the Droitwich Barge Canal (left) and restore a section to leisure navigation."



PHIL BENNION MEP
Tel: 01827 312100

www.philbennion.org

phil@philbennion.org

6B Bolebridge Street, Tamworth,
Staffs B79 7PA

This panel published by Phillip Bennion MEP and the ALDE Group, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels 1047, Belgium.

Membership rates are:

Adult £10; Family £15; Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £6; Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Corporate £200; Life Membership £200, Family Life Membership £300 (includes children up to age 18).

To join, please contact the Membership Secretary (see address page).

Owing to the ever increasing cost of postage, the Trust Council has decided to discontinue sending "Courtesy Reminders" to those members who pay by Bankers Order. Consequently, it would be more economical for the Trust if those who pay by cheque could change to a Bankers Order, using the form available on our website, or call 01543 671427 to have one sent to you.

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1st January to 31st March 2014.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet, Restoration and Land Appeals	Feet of Clay Fund
Anonymous donation in memory of David Beeton, BA of Edinburgh who died on 20th February 2014		2,500.00	2,500.00
anonymous	50.00		
Mr S Szulc (with sub.)	25.00		
Mr J A Carr (with sub.)	50.00		
Mr P J Smith (with sub.)	50.00		
Lichfield Discovered Group talk			70.45
Mrs J Surplice		50.00	
Longwood Boat Club			125.00
Mr J Vosper			30.00
Mr B R Humphreys			40.00
Mrs J D Allison			50.00
Mr J C Dodwell			100.00
Mr R H Hayward			30.00
Mr T T Morris			30.00
Mr G J Wilson			30.00
Mr D H Newman			45.00
Mr P Croft		100.00	
Mr K R Ashby			30.00
Mrs B J Kneller			30.00
Mr B Marshall			30.00
Dr I M Thompson			50.00
Mr G Glover			100.00
The Bostock Foundation			500.00
Ms A Green			25.00
Mr R J Fenton			30.00
Ms G Okunniwa			30.00
Mr & Mrs J K W Pearse			30.00
Mr R A Smith			30.00
Mr & Mrs D Bennett			50.00
Mr W B Brown			50.00

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1st January to 31st March 2014.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet, Restoration and Land Appeals	Feet of Clay Fund
Mr & Mrs J W Fleming			50.00
Mr K R Jackson			50.00
Mr C E Rickets			50.00
Ms D M Hoblyn			200.00
Mr & Mrs B R Humphreys (with sub)	30.00		
Miss A C Salter (with sub.)	40.00		
Mrs M Brown & friends	21.00		
Mr & Mrs J R Cox			30.00
Mr & Mrs D G Phillips			30.00
Mr K G Robinson			30.00
Miss D M Skilbeck MBE			100.00
Mr R K Clowsley			25.00
Mr J D Moore			30.00
Mrs G Riggs			60.00
Mr A I C Ainsworth			25.00
Mr D L Moore			30.00
Mr & Mrs R L Mantle			60.00
Mr M A Ainge			30.00
Mrs K A Bird			45.00
Mr D A Parkes			60.00
Mr P A Stanworth			100.00
Mr S N J Blades			30.00
Mr B T Johnson			30.00
Mrs H V Smith			100.00
Mr A V H Gulvin			50.00
Mr O F G Butler			30.00
Mrs P Collins			30.00
Mr R J Larkin			30.00
Trust Quiz Evening collection			155.00
Easyfundraising	37.28		
Mrs C Cooper			30.00

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1st January to 31st March 2014.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet, Restoration and Land Appeals	Feet of Clay Fund
Mr K A Richmond			30.00
Mr D Shipman			30.00
Mr B J Holloway			30.00
IWA Shrewsbury District & North Wales Branch AGM (talk)	60.00		
Mr D Redwood			30.00
Mr P J Adds			45.00
Dr C Lock			30.00
Mr & Mrs J Goodwin			30.00
Mr & Mrs C Martin			60.00
Mrs J Newman & Miss J Cooper			24.00
Mr W H Cole			25.00
Mr & Mrs M Golds			30.00
Mrs S C E Raybone and re James Michael Bassitt			30.00 30.00
Mr J E Bark			30.00
Mr O W Pinfold			30.00
Mrs B Gray (and monthly payments)			30.00
Mrs P J Wadham			26.00
IWA Lichfield Branch			500.00
Mr D E Ramsbottom			30.00
Rev A J Cooper			25.00
Mr I Campbell			100.00
Mr P K Green			30.00
Mr D Mann			30.00
Ms M Smith			50.00
Dr G T Whitfield			250.00
Mr R A Strike			30.00
Tempest Ford, Lichfield			150.00
Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield Methodist Church Ladies Friendship Club			200.00

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations for amounts over £20 from 1st January to 31st March 2014.

Name (in order of receipt)	Trust & Marketing	Suchet, Restoration and Land Appeals	Feet of Clay Fund
anonymous			5,000.00
anonymous		12,500.00	12,500.00
Mr R T Willis (private talk fees)	130.00		
Mr David Stanistreet	120.00		60.00
Mr J Moody (returned property rent)	300.00		
Returned expenses by Directors:-			
- Mr B Kingshott	427.00		
- Mr D Dixon	198.50		
Regular donors to appeals and aggregated amounts up to £20.00.	1,687.54	715.25	635.00



Our 500 Club gives members a 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.

Renewals have been coming in steadily but we have also lost a few '500 Club' subscriptions. However there have been several new subscriptions since the last draw, making 239 numbers eligible for this draw compared with 231 in December 2013. Don't forget, more subscriptions means more money raised for the Capital Fund and for prize money to be won.

So please spread the word.

The winners of the March 2014 draw are:

First prize	£ 179.40	No 206	Mr K Gough, Lichfield.
Second prize	£ 117.30	No 67	Mr G Danbury, St Albans.
Third prize	£ 48.30	No 247	Susan Williams, Hammerwich.

NEW MEMBERS 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2014

Rainer Clover, Shenstone
Ann Clover, Shenstone
Raymond Walker, Lichfield
David Barnes, Rugeley
William Woodcock, Burntwood
Gerry Carleston, Handsacre
Stephen Carleston, Handsacre
Norman Massey, Lichfield
John Brandwood, Lichfield

B Hall, Alrewas
David Hodgkinson, Burntwood
Julie Venables, Lichfield
Michael Howarth, Pelsall
Richard Paulson, Lichfield
D R Edwards, Hill Ridware
Jeremy Grove, Lichfield
Roger Lee, Alrewas
Chris Parkes, Tamworth

Membership Total:- 1898
(Including 422 Adult, 924 Family, 154 Life, 378 Retired, 20 Other).

ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret the loss of the following member :-
Mr R L Harris, Stourbridge, death notified 12th January 2014.
Mr P H Ogdon, Rowington, Warks, died 6th February 2014, aged 100.

Membership

Can I thank all members who have been kind enough to tell me I have got it wrong – I new I would somewhere along the line.

I have sent reminders for renewal to Life Members and also to some of you who pay on Bankers Order, again my apologies.

With moving over to a computer system we are bound to get it wrong sometimes, probably it was me inputting the data incorrectly, but thanks again for your patience.

I am also asking Members who pay by cash or cheque if they would like to move over to paying by Bankers Order, it reduces the cost to the Trust quite a lot and if you do, please email (mervyn.ainge@ntlworld.com)

or phone me (01889 801242) for a Bankers Order Form.

Mervyn Ainge, Membership Assistant

(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)

After the success of our Social Evening in October, not a lot happens during the winter months – but we have opened the exhibition area in Lichfield as reported in this issue.

The annual Quiz Evening in February was sold out again with 100 contestants pitting their wits in 16 competing teams with some testing question set by Bob Williams. There was no bribery involved, only sheer genius that our Chairman's team won the tempting prize of £50, but gave some back of course!. An inspiring presentation during the interval by Peter Buck to raise funds for the current "Feet of Clay" Appeal boosted the gain from the event to over £900.



Whilst contestants have their "thinking caps" on, Peter Buck wearing his "Brunel hat" is preparing to promote the "Feet of Clay Appeal" at the Quiz Evening, 22-Feb-2014.

Looking forward to some of this year's events which we will be attending:-

24-26 May	Crick Boat Show.
26 May	Lichfield Greenhill Bower, Beacon Park, Lichfield.
6 June	Annual General Meeting, Brownhills.
28-29 June	Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally and Canal Festival, Northamptonshire.
5-6 July	Cars in the Park, Lichfield.

We would welcome any assistance you give us at these events to promote the Trust and help to raise more funds for this year's restoration programme.

Steve Fitzgerald

EASTER COFFEE MORNING



A special thanks to Eric and Doreen Wood for hosting their all day Easter coffee morning event yet again and to all those who put so much into making it a success. Around £800 was raised from the BBQ, cakes, bric-a-brac, book sale and refreshments. Eric said "Never has so much tea and coffee with cream scones been produced and consumed with such enthusiasm". We even had a visit from Jim & Alex Oldfield from Yorkshire who were "just passing" in their boat which is moored at Barton.

Entertainment was provided by The Hotpots - Trust member Lynn Evans and friend Audrey.



BOWER QUEEN OPENS THE HERITAGE TOWPATH TRAIL

Lichfield Greenhill Bower Queen Savannah Bennett and Deputy Bower Queen Charlotte Aspley had a very important date on Saturday April 13 when they officially opened the city's latest outdoor amenity – the Lichfield Canal Heritage Towpath Trail.

The first completed section of the Trail, from Lock 25 in the Borrowcop Locks Canal Park on the A51 Tamworth Road to the bus stop adjacent to the A38 bridge, has been made disabled-friendly by volunteers from our Trust after months of hard work in extremely testing weather conditions.

Wheelchair-users, walkers, runners and cyclists will be able to use the section, which runs alongside the watered Pound 26, Lock 26 and Pound 27, which will also be in water later this year. Work is currently going on to create a winding hole, where narrowboats can turn around, and Pound 27 will be lined with puddled clay before being filled with water.

The Trail passes a section of narrows, a short length of single-vessel width canal, before rising on a gentle gradient up to the Tamworth Road. The disabled-friendly section is part of an ambitious programme to create a seven-mile Heritage Towpath Trail alongside the Lichfield Canal, which when restored will run from Huddlesford to Catshill Junction at Brownhills, where the Lichfield Canal links to the Wyrley and Essington Canal.

The Trail will provide a unique community amenity, in close proximity to Lichfield's cultural and industrial heritage, and an important wildlife corridor, with new nature reserves linking heathland and wetland areas.

Tom Reid, (Publicity Officer)





Heather Bacon, who happened to be walking with her dog Jem from Leeds to Cornwall to raise funds for Save the Children, enjoyed using the new path as part of the Heart of England Way.



Leading the walk, Paul Woolley prepares to test the new disabled-friendly path.



The view from Lock 25 before work started in 1997 which by 2014 has become part of the Heritage Towpath Trail alongside Pound 26.





The A38 diversion route across a field south of Tamworth Road in 2009 is now the canal channel flanked by the new Heritage Towpath Trail



I can't believe it's 3 months since I composed my last piece for the magazine, but here we are, back on British Summer Time and with the winter behind us. After such a wet start to the year it's good to see the site drying up, making our tasks



much more pleasant. So, how have we spent those months? Looking at the last issue, I see that we hoped to complete the earthworks for the towpath wall from the narrows to the A51 "in a couple of weeks", but I'm afraid it took far longer than that, due mainly to atrocious ground conditions at that end of the site; for a few weeks it was impossible to get the dumper through the deep mud and ruts, so we went to Plan B and moved our

attention to Pound 25, where we'd found the foundations of the towpath wall were inadequate and needed underpinning. Even there, conditions, at first quite good, deteriorated as the weather worsened and the ground cut up, but we battled on and finished a vital job in reasonable time. It was very hard graft, as all the concrete was mixed on site and had to be shovelled out of the dumper into a narrow opening in the shuttering. The finished job isn't one of our prettiest efforts but is structurally very sound and should ensure the stability of the wall.



Fortunately for us, the completion of this job also saw an improvement in the weather and we were able to complete the towpath earthwork after many months of hard work and the moving and levelling of vast amounts of material, probably well in excess of the previous estimate. That only left the construction of the wheelchair-friendly footpath surface, a vital part of our Heritage Towpath Trail, but I'll return to that story later.

Another project mentioned in the last issue was the repairing of lock 26, which having already been prepared, was given a new base of reinforced concrete in mid-January; another good step forward. Farther away from Tamworth Road, at Fossey Lane and in Darnford Heath, "The Staffords", our hedgecutting gang, have ploughed their own furrow and transformed previously overgrown areas into wide, easily walked footpaths which are already appreciated by an increasing number of people.

We've made a start on the foundations for the winding hole wing walls adjacent to the narrows and hope to have these finished in a couple of months, after which we can look towards preparing the channel for lining, our great ambition for the year.

So, back to the Heritage Towpath Trail! Having completed the earthworks towards the end of March, we had less than 3 weeks in which to complete the



construction of the footpath, a distance of about 1/4 of a mile, involving retaining boards, a base layer of crushed concrete and a final topping layer. It was obviously going to be hard to meet our deadline of 13th. April, so I asked if the gang could



possibly do a few extra hours or different days. How magnificently they responded! We normally put in around 150 hours a week, but in the 2 weeks prior to the opening ceremony we did over 650 hours' work. Even so, it was like a TV makeover programme, with us frantically putting the finishing touches as the Bower Queen arrived for the ceremony.

The effort was worth it, however, and I believe the path is one of our greatest achievements. Users will only see the finished surface and never realise the months of dedicated work that made it possible. Some people may say that it's not really canal restoration, but as at Fosseway and Darnford, the public can see the benefits of our work and from the appreciative comments we hear it can only be good for the standing of the Trust.

Finally, as always, but this time more than ever, my thanks to all the lads and girls for their wonderful support and friendship. I don't know how many restoration groups exist, but I don't think anyone in a similar position to me can have such a fine group of workmates; I'm very proud to be a part of it all.



Terry Brown (Lichfield Site Manager)

Spring is “Sprung”

After waiting patiently for winter to release its icy grip to allow the Trust’s Environmental (Green) Team to “Spring” into action, we are now further frustrated by a deluge that would have even challenged Noah!

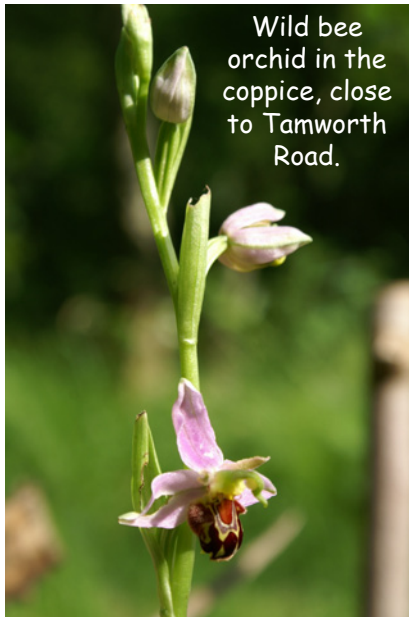
None the less, in the interim we have not been idle and the thinking and planning processes, together with the greenhouse cultivation of suitable woodland and canal–side bulbs and wild flowers has continued apace. One concept under active consideration, in partnership with members and colleagues at FIRA, a Birmingham based company of Environmental and Landscape Architects is to develop a Sensory Trail along the Tamworth Road section.

Some while ago a chance meeting with a visiting member of the Staffordshire Blind Association together with companion dog Cora, set in hand a idea for this environment friendly development of the Tamworth Road site.

This is an iconic visitors site with its fall of three locks within a six hundred metre length, offers many opportunities to attract development funding for its eventual return to a fully operational condition. Not only for prospective boaters approaching the Lichfield City Centre, but also for gongoozlers, walkers, twitchers, and exercisers, and healthy living seekers, both physical and mental.



Daffodills add colour alongside Lock 25.



Wild bee orchid in the coppice, close to Tamworth Road.

This development proposes the enhancement of the natural ecology through the provision of a sensory Length of the “Lichfield Canal Towpath Trail” (LCTPT). This would be a specifically focused section of the longer proposal of a Trail linking together the Huddlesford and Ogley Junctions.

The Grass is “Ris”

The Sensory Trail is proposed to enhance the walking experience by the stimulation of each sense through specifically focused planting, (for example Honeysuckle and Ramsells to delight the nose). The following are some ideas, and further suggestions are most welcome; together with any appropriate plants surplus to your garden’s requirements.

The “touchy-feely” sense is already covered (in Spades) by the existing Hawthorn and Holly hedgerows. These, together with the occasional Bramble and Dog Rose setting an ambush, waiting to “bushwhack” the unwary walker, suffice to meet this sensory requirement. Although donations of more attractive plants and shrubs are always welcome. Incidentally, I gather that at one time it was an offence to allow your narrowboat - towing horse to browse and hence damage the “quick” as it was then known. If caught, was the punishment to tow the next mile or so by hand?

I Wonder Where the “Birdies Is”?

This planting plan is in the earliest stage of consideration thus further input would be valued. Any ideas please??

Some Say the “Bird Is on the Wing”

Winter Aconites - These are one of the first spring plants to flower, always a welcome sight.

But That of Course “Is Absurd”

Snowdrops
- Substantial clumps of this iconic bulb have been planted over past years and these have matured to please the eye right now, Please take a walk to enjoy and admire.



Because the Wing Is “On The Bird”!

Woodland Daffodils and Tulips - Two years ago the team planted a substantial number of woodland miniature Daffodils and Tulips along the Coppice path, and particularly on the Cricket Lane corner. The results of the earlier planting will present its first reward in the next few weeks (again weather permitting).

And Finally

Woodland Primulas - Last year Our President and his Lady kindly donated a tray of Woodland Primulas to the Trust. These have been over-wintered and are now ready to be set along the Towpath and in the Coppice to brighten the more shady spots.

Mike Battison, (Environmental Officer)

HS2

The hybrid bill is now going through the Commons. The Trust continues to monitor the situation closely but is currently confident that the channel at Cappers Lane will not be obstructed by the railway. Vigilance will be maintained at all levels.

District Local Plans

The latest news from Lichfield DC is encouraging and it now seems likely that the inspector will accept the recommendation concerning the route. The situation concerning South Staffs Council which covers much of the Hatherton is less clear and moves are under way to clarify this. Route protection is vital to both schemes and the Plans will last until at least 2028.

The Chase Line Railway

This route crosses the Hatherton at Churchbridge and will require us to tunnel through it. The line is about to be electrified and positioning the line of the tunnel is crucial. We have learnt in Lichfield that if heavy OLE equipment is above the proposed channel then tunnelling will not be acceptable to Network Rail. This is already a difficult and constrained area and it is vital that we get this right at the planning stage.

Heritage Towpath Trails

Planning of the Lichfield trail is going well and the descriptive map is in an advanced stage of preparation. We will turn our attention to the Hatherton as it is equally important to open up the route to the public well in advance of channel building and restoration. Inevitably, a Hatherton trail will be less coherent than the Lichfield but it will be an important step forward.

Coal from the Ashby Canal

To show kindred spirit, our Trust was represented at a well-attended special ceremony staged by the Ashby Canal Association at Snarestone on 17th April. The event was

held with the kind assistance of UK Coal and the co-operation of Leicestershire County Council to highlight the restoration of the Ashby Canal to Measham and beyond to the disconnected but restored section at Moira. Progress is limited by the funding available and help is needed: this marked the next stage in the restoration process. Motor boat "Aquarius" and Butty "Ilford", were each loaded with 18 tons of



coal, courtesy of UK Coal from its nearby open-cast workings. The boats travelled south along the length of the Ashby Canal, then touring the waterway system, suitably adorned with promotional banners. This event recreated the spectacle of commercial coal carrying which ended on the Ashby Canal in the early 1970's. Our Trust will maintain its interest in the Ashby development where lessons may be learned from the way the canal is put back in water.

Land Purchase

It is obvious that the Trust must own, lease, or have a licence to operate on the track of both canals. Steady progress has been made on this over the years, especially on the Lichfield. Although the areas of land are in themselves quite small the price can be high. We have a land fund which is used for such purchases but rebuilding reserves can be a slow process. We were able to buy land off Cappers Lane but funds were much depleted. We have been fortunate with some recent and generous donations but we still lack the level of balance that we need. There are several valuable parcels of land for which we could bid if funds allowed. The recent major inflow of money has been for the Feet of Clay appeal which seems to have captured much attention. However, the land fund remains a priority.

Ogley Travellers

There has still been no decision announced on the planning application.

Brian Kingshott (chairman)

We are very grateful to the donors:-

SL & Company Limited, Solihull, Agents for Inner City Partnerships Limited for granting a Licence to the Trust to occupy vacant shop premises at 8 & 10 City Arcade, Lichfield as an exhibition area for the public (see report in this issue).

Mr David Mills, Bromsgrove, for used site equipment.

Mr Laurence Hogg, Worfeld, for spare site equipment.

Canal Transport Services

Boat builders at Norton Canes since 1964

Traditional narrow boats and tugs built to your specification, from one of the oldest & most respected boat builders in the business.

We have our own fully heated paint shop, dry dock and grit blasting facility as well as all the usual boat yard trades at your disposal.

Call Matthew Cooper on 01543 374370

The Trust Shop

The shop in the City Arcade has been very successful since we opened it just before Christmas with over 1000 people calling in to see us.

We have also increased the Membership by approximately 40 and had a number of people wanting to Volunteer to help us on the cut.

As I said in the last Cut Both Ways, if anyone would like to help us in the shop, please let me know.



You don't need to have an in depth knowledge of what we are doing as we would make sure someone would be with you at all times.

We are open on Fridays and Saturdays, from 10:00 am until 4.00pm. We have split the staffing to

change over at 1:00 pm so volunteers are only asked to do 3 hours maximum. As the tourist season gets under way and as more people come forward to help we would like to add some additional days. Your help does not have to be every week, just one day a month would help us.

Give me a call on 01889 801242 or email me at mervyn.ainge@ntlworld.com

CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE??

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.

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.

Membership subscriptions

It is pleasing to note that 4 out of every 10 members add a voluntary donation to their annual subscription, taking the average payment across all members to £15 each as unrestricted income. This may be a fairer way of maintaining our basic income rather than a general increase in subscription rates when the donations may then cease, or members choose to discontinue their support. The basic £10 adult subscription has not changed since the very beginning, 25 years ago, so its purchasing power is very much less and may well have to be adjusted in line with other values as we go forward. So please add on what you can afford to represent your personal subscription to support our work.

Gift Aid declarations

70% of our subscriptions are paid with the benefit of a Gift Aid Declaration for the Trust to claim the equivalent tax value. Each year, tax rates are reviewed in the Chancellor's Budget where the amount allowed before any tax follows an upward trend. Therefore, people on lower incomes benefit by not having to pay tax which means that declarations established in the past may not now be valid.

The Trust must be mindful of the law and ask those whose tax circumstances have changed to tell us if we need to discontinue their Gift Aid claims. Please give us a call on 01543 671427 to change our records in this regard.

Grand Prize Draw, 2014

Each year, an important component of our fund-raising is the Prize Draw, typically producing over £4,000. Tickets are now available at £1 each with valuable cash and material prizes to be won. Following past practice, the Draw will be made during our Autumn Social Evening which this year will be a little later on 22nd November: details of that will be announced nearer the time. There will be plenty of Draw tickets in books of 10 for you to buy and sell to others over the coming half year.

"Feet of Clay" Appeal Report

Since this appeal was launched in the Winter edition, the response has been really excellent as can be seen on the donations listing in this issue. With the addition of the balance from our 25th Anniversary Appeal, the total so far is over £30,000. This means that work can start soon on bringing water into Pound 27 to connect with Lock 26 and the pound above completed three years ago.

The estimated cost of clay waterproof lining is £40,000 so we have some way to go yet. Payment slips were included with the last issue to submit donations by cheque payable to LHCRT Ltd, and sent to LHCRT Ltd, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, Staffs. WS7 0JP. Alternatively, a Paypal payment can be made by using your bank debit card through the donations section of our website at www.lhcrt.org.uk.

Bob Williams, Director (Finance)

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

DRAFT BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 December 2013

	31 Dec 2013		31 Dec 2012	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Freehold property (part depreciated)	342,026		347,796	
Plant & Machinery (over £1,000 per item, depreciated)	1,602		4,619	
Investment in subsidiary company shares	1,000	344,628	1,000	353,415
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors				
Net assets available from subsidiary company	2,218		1,002	
Net Group VAT receivable or payable	0		0	
Advance expenditure on Darnford Park development	0	2,218	9,000	10,002
Bank balances:				
Restricted funds:				
Lichfield Canal, Tamworth Rd separate match funding	1,630		1,630	
Brick Appeal funds, net of expenditure	195		55	
Land Fund (donated), net of expenditure	LF 3,404		869	
Restoration Fund (donated), net of expenditure	RF 4,654		13,915	
- Page legacy for paddle gear (Oct.2004)	2,756		2,756	
David Suchet Thirty Pounds Appeal, net of expenditure	3,211		1,981	
25th Ann.Fund (2012 Jubilee), net of designation & exp.	5,885		1,125	
500 Club prize reserve	257	21,992	257	22,588
Designated funds:				
Land Fund (Trust allocation)	LF 15,000			
Restoration Fund (Trust allocation)	RF 5,000			
500 Club Capital Fund	1,386		1,242	
Restoration budget balance	0	21,386	52	1,294
Unrestricted funds:				
Trust funds for general purposes		1,622		2,118
Total funds in deposit a/c	£45,000		£26,000	
Unity Trust Bank, Trust current a/c	2,242		509	
Lloyds Bank Trust current a/c	285		150	
Funds in hand or in course of collection	0	2,527	0	659
Total Trust operating funds	£47,527		£26,659	
Unity Trust Bank, Marketing current a/c		448		160
Total assets before liabilities		394,821		390,236
LIABILITIES:				
Loan reduction falling due within one year				
Private loans for advance Darnford Park work		0		(9,000)
The Charity Bank Ltd; Mortgage loan on Ogley Cottage	(7,128)		(6,714)	
Loan outstanding after one year				
The Charity Bank Ltd; Mortgage loan on Ogley Cottage	(211,867)	(218,995)	(218,995)	(225,709)
TOTAL NET RESOURCES		175,826		155,527
RESERVES:				
Income & Expenditure Account		175,826		155,527
NOTES:				
Ogley Cottage rent deposit lodged with Deposit Protection Service		625		605

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

DRAFT INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions from members (excl. Marketing below)	M	9,871		9,331
Donations	M	net Trust+Mrktg £6,481	net Trust+Mrktg £5,759	
Received with subscriptions		4,242	3,927	
Land Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		3,535	2,179	
Restoration Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		569	3,785	
Other (excl. Marketing collections below)		6,087	7,248	17,139
Income generated by Marketing and Retail Trading				
Trust & Public events (after £2,000 TB walk to 25th Fd)		17,753	3,590	
Membership subscriptions via website, shows, etc.	M	1,018	797	
Brick Appeal		140	635	
500 Club Capital Fund (net of prizes paid out)		1,742	1,246	
Grand Prize Draw		6,150	4,267	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements		4,027	2,627	
Net profit from Retail Trading subsidiary company	P	2,218	2,002	15,164
Rent, tax, interest, etc.	P	net profit £22,006	net profit £11,705	
Ogley Cottage rent	O	7,300	6,960	
Gift Aid tax reclaim (other than specific Funds)		4,621	3,880	
Bank credit interest		71	134	
Wayleave for electricity line pole at Darnford		12	12	10,986
SUB-TOTAL REGULAR INCOME		69,356		52,620
Specific Appeal, Grants and Settlements				
David Suchet Thirty Pound Appeal (incl. Gift Aid tax)		1,230	2,890	
25th Anniversary Fund (inc. Gift Aid tax)		28,760	19,125	
Lichfield District Council (2012, S106 for Pound 27)		0	20,000	
Sale of land to Lichfield Cruising Club		4,000	0	42,015
Private loans for 2012 advance work in Darnford Park		(9,000)		9,000
TOTAL INCOME	in	94,346		103,635
EXPENDITURE				
Restoration costs				
Lichfield Canal; Tamworth Road, P.27 ex LDC grant below		5,900	11,515	
Hatherton Canal		56	0	
Accommodation & welfare		820	436	
Tools, Plant, Machinery, Training		3,079	(97)	(11,854)
Administrative costs				
Professional fees and costs		2,213	4,188	
Ogley Cottage costs (incl. Insurance)	O	856 (C-I ratio 11.7%)	815 (11.7%)	
Membership and magazine administration	M	4,408 (C-I ratio 40.5%)	4,369 (43.1%)	
Direct cost of Marketing activity (ex 500 Club prizes)	P	11,042 (C-I ratio 33.4%)	3,459 (22.8%)	
Direct cost of Funding Appeals		0	1,245	
General administration		3,343	3,519	
Insurance premium (via IWA)		1,962	1,881	
IWA membership subscription		54	52	(19,528)
Project costs				
Lichfield Canal, Pound 27, S.106 work (LDC £20,000 grant)		14,100	5,900	
Lichfield Canal, Darnford Park		4,068	59,265	(65,165)
Finance charge				
Interest paid on Charity Bank loan		(13,359)		(13,786)
NET FUNDS MOVEMENT ON TRUST ACTIVITIES	out	(65,260)	(110,333)	(6,698)
less Depreciation of property and plant		(8,787)		(9,010)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		20,299		(15,708)
Retained Surplus brought forward		155,527		171,235
Retained Surplus carried forward		175,826		155,527

(This page does not form part of the formal accounts, only a summary of the totals)

Notice is hereby given that the 24th. Annual General Meeting of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd. will be held at **Park View Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 7JB on Friday 6th. June 2014 at 7.15 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the 23rd. Annual General Meeting 7th June 2013.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Directors' Report.
5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ended 31st. December 2013.
6. Chairman's Report.
7. Election of Directors:
 - (a) Directors retiring by rotation and eligible to stand for re-election:
David Dixon, Peter Magee,
Trevor Morris, Vaughan Welch (IWA nominee).
 - (b) Directors co-opted during the year and nominated by Council for election:
Mrs. Dora Hancock, Secretary
 - (c) Any other nominations received.
8. Appointment of Accounts Examiner:
Dains - Chartered Accountants.
9. Any Other Business.
10. Close of formal business.
11. Guest Speaker.

Brian Nelson , Vice Charman, Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust.

"Talking about the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals"

After the AGM, tea and biscuits will be served with an opportunity to view displays and sales material.

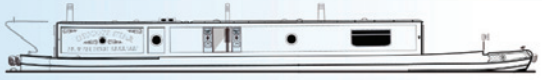
Note 1: A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy. A Form of Proxy can be obtained from the Company Secretary (Dora Hancock), to whom they should be returned at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

Note 2: A summary of the 2013 Annual Accounts, subject to approval, is included in this magazine. Any member wanting a copy of the full accounts in advance of the meeting should contact the Treasurer, Bob Williams.

Note 3: Non-members are welcome to attend but cannot vote at the AGM.



ABNB Ltd
Boat Brokerage



Selling individually vetted,
well presented boats

Unrivalled
**4-page detailed
colour brochure**
with photos and
layout drawing



www.abnb.co.uk

Selling from own moorings
or from our Crick base

Browse our website
for our listings with
**information on all
boats**, also lots of
useful information

Friendly **helpful advice** from our experienced and knowledgeable team of boaters
www.abnb.co.uk • admin@abnb.co.uk • Crick base NN6 7XT

Open 9.30 to 5.30 every day Tel: 01788 822 115 or 01788 822 508

Recycle, Benefit your Environment

Raise Funds for our Charity

Please donate your unwanted Gold, Silver, Costume Jewellery and Watches



Parcel up your jewellery and post free of charge to:

**Lichfield & Hatherton Canals
Restoration Trust Ltd,
FREEPOST, CENTRAL, RECYCLING**

If you can, please ask your family,
friends and colleagues to participate in
this Jewellery Recycling Collection.



**Thank you very much for
your support**

Would you like to receive a colour copy of Cut Both Ways
in an electronic PDF format?
Please email the editor (Stefan.Szulc@Gmail.com) and request a copy.

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.

PRESIDENT Eric Wood **VICE-PRESIDENT** David Suchet CBE.

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

DIRECTORS

Chairman Brian Kingshott 01547 530457 - Tel/Fax 07831 572642 - Mobile kingers.bk@gmail.com	Vice-Chairman & Land Officer David Dixon 01543 258512 – Home 07807 258957 – Mobile daviddixon21@virginmedia.com	Finance Bob Williams 01543 671427 07973 293834 - Mobile bob_williams80@hotmail.com
Secretary Dora Hancock info@lhcr.org.uk	Membership Trevor Morris 0121 354 7952 t727morris@btinternet.com	Environment & Fundraising Geoff Crook 01543 254826 geoffreyrcrook@hotmail.co.uk
Plant Peter Magee 01889 578289 – Home/Fax 07973 509232 – Mobile peter.magee@me.com	Project Planning Mike Battisson 01543 300090 07984 437284 - Mobile mjbattis@gmail.com	Commerce John Bryan 01543 683586 jhohnbryan@talktalk.net
Health & Safety Bob Mullarkey 01543 251408 – Home 01543 426811 – Work 07973 719215 – Mobile robertmullarkey@btinternet.com	Engineering (& Lichfield Cruising Club rep) Peter Buck 01543 268041 - Home 07966 123239 - Mobile peteandjeanne@talktalk.net	Lichfield Sites Manager Terry Brown 01889 576574 - Home 07855 810568 – Mobile terrybrown152@hotmail.co.uk

Other Officers

IWA Nominee Vaughan Welch 0121 477 9782 – Home 07971 202406 – Mobile kvwelch@mypostoffice.co.uk	Magazine Editor Stefan Szulc 01543 677156 stefan.szulc@gmail.com editor@lhcr.org.uk	Website Paul Marshall 01543 410646 paulmarshall2020@gmail.com
Hatherton Work Party Denis Cooper 01543 374370 – Work	Membership Assistants Mervyn & Pat Ainge 01889 801242 - Home 07850 421851 – Mobile pat.ainge@ntlworld.com	Publicity Officer Tom Reid 01543 319754 - Home 07840 300178 - Mobile tommy_reid@yahoo.co.uk

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RETAIL TRADING LIMITED.

Company No 3686837 - Chairman: John Bryan; Secretary: Rob Davies; Finance: Bob Williams

web site:

www.lhcr.org.uk



Chase Grammar School

Made to Measure



**Preparing Your Child for the Future with
a Tailor Made Curriculum**

High Expectations

Small Classes

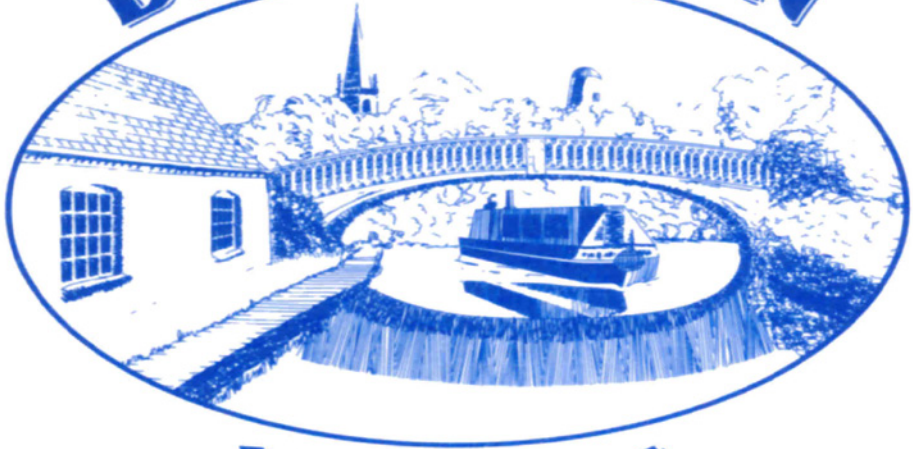
Family Atmosphere

Formerly Chase Academy

Independent Co-Educational School from Nursery to A-Level
Scholarships, Bursaries and Transport Available

Contact Karen Anderson, School Secretary to make an appointment to visit the school
www.chasegrammar.com, tel 01543 501800, Convent Close, Cannock, WS11 0UR

BRAUNSTON



MARINA

**Braunston Marina
are proud to BACK
the campaign to save the
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals.**

keep digging the ground from under their feet!

**Braunston Marina
The Wharf, Braunston, Nr Daventry,
Northamptonshire. NN11 7JH
Telephone: 01788 891373
Fax: 01788 891436
web site: www.braunstonmarina.co.uk
email: sales@braunstonmarina.co.uk**