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Summer 2024

The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



160
EDITION

REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER

Working together in the present to revive the past and secure a better future.®

Who does What?



To get in touch see “Contacts” inside the back cover

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*Front cover image – Exploratory work at Oxenhall
Picture by Bob Hargreaves*

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Canal Walks



Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust has produced an expanding series walk leaflets which explore various parts of the Hereford & Gloucester Canal.

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All proceeds towards the promotion and restoration of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal.

More details and ordering options available on the website.

Logs for Sale Proceeds to Trust Funds

These logs are processed by our volunteers from the clearance work during canal restoration. The sale of them helps to fund the cost of our work restoring the Hereford and Gloucester Canal.

Each log order will need to be two cubic metres or three dumpy bags @ £75.00 per bag.



Purchases can be arranged by contacting our Malswick site team by email: malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

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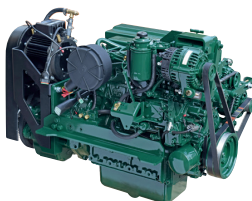


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From the desk of the chairman

Firstly, a big thank you to our members and volunteers. This month we have had several donations that take total donations recently into five figures. Thank you.

When I give talks – which is into double figures so far this year with others still booked for later on in the year, plus a couple into 2025 – I always say that our number one requirement for restoring the canal is more volunteers.

Volunteers open doors for us in many ways – donating their time, a willingness to get involved, helping us with their skills, spreading the word, or donating money. All our volunteers, whatever they bring to the trust, will ensure this canal is restored. Our membership is just as important – the more members we have the more support we have.

I recently visited an open day in Shropshire and met the Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Restoration Chairman. We discussed our mutual challenges and possible solutions – always good to share experiences. They are in the progress of developing a visitors' centre and café which has only been possible with a large legacy they have received. You'll be able to hear what is going on up there yourselves at the September social.

We hope to see lots of members giving their support by attending the AGM. Please go to the HGCT website to find the accounts and annual report. After the official business the bar will be open – time for a chance to get a drink and a chat. We will be showing a presentation of the work done on the canal over the past year and highlight plans for next.

One of the jobs coming up is craning one of our Over boats out ready for maintenance and painting. At the boat trips which we ran last month, a visitor mentioned that he could only help with painting, so he left with a volunteer form as the boat will need a lot of painting!

The team at Malswick are getting close to applying for the next planning application for further creation of the canal corridor down towards Gloucester while the Malswick mountains are moving to help with the infill and lengthening of the canal towards the football ground.

A couple of Trustees recently meet with Tewkesbury Council to discuss the next section at Over and how we could look at moving it forward. A very positive meeting.

A lot going on and I finish with another thank you to all involved.

Ralph Barber

Trustees' Report



THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 for the Trust which is a non-profit distributing company no. 2704407, formed in April 1992, and a registered charity no. 1010721, which replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society launched in 1983.

Governing document

The charity is a company, limited by guarantee as defined in the Companies Act 2006, and as such is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational structure

A team of volunteers runs the charity. It is managed by the Trustees who meet regularly, supported by site-based groups of volunteers and committees responsible for promotion and other commercial activities. The board appoint trustees to run The Wharf House Co. Ltd. The Articles of Association allow for up to twelve trustees to be in place but does allow for the co-option of two more to cover special projects.

One third of the trustees stand down annually by rotation but can apply for re-election. Potential new trustees can be elected at the AGM or are co-opted during the year, but they must stand for formal election at the next AGM. When new Trustees join, they are provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, which includes information about trustees and charity law.

Risk management.

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are put in place to reduce risks of fraud error or unsafe acts.

The Board of Trustees are aware of the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees have regard to this guidance and consider the activities of the charity are conducted demonstrably for the public benefit and this applies also to their plans for future action. The charitable objects are the rebuilding a sustainable canal between Hereford and Gloucester.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Richard Appleton
Ralph Barber
Deborah Barber
Dave Goff

Bob Hargreaves
Edward Helps
Tony Higgins
Phillip Marshall

Eamonn McGurk
Robert Moreland
Keith Vaughan Welch

Objectives and activities:

The trust espouses the following core values: -

Restoring, enhancing, and protecting the canal for all

Integrating the canal corridor as a sustainable resource into the life of the communities along its route Endeavouring to complete the work in partnership with all other interested parties.



Interested Parties

This reporting period we have engaged further with the Neighbourhood Plans under development in Newent. Also, further engagement with councillors in local, district and county wide government including an open evening for local councillors at Malswick.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The volunteers form a critical part of the trust, not just in restoring the canal but also maintaining the restored sections and promoting widely through local and national events. All these aspects have continued throughout the year in question and are set to expand. The monetary value of the volunteer work that we have recorded adds up £188,150 but we know this does not reflect all the time dedicated to the business of H&G CT by all our hardworking volunteers.

Risks to the Charity

The Trust continues to negotiate new sites and to rejuvenate former sites with developers and landowners at various places along the line of the canal - including locations in Hereford, Gloucestershire and Ledbury. These can take years to conclude but we continue with an on-going diverse portfolio of negotiations so that a flow of announcements can realistically come over the coming years.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold funds that are to cover the normal operating costs for 12 months.

Charitable activities and achievements

Chairman's Report:

My thanks go to all Trustees and Volunteers for their ongoing support and involvement in the Trust.

We are back to a normal operating environment after the past few years of Covid impacts, with working parties at restoration sites, promotional events attended, and social evenings continuing throughout the year. The AGM in June was face to face in at the Royal Oak, Much Marcle, with many attending.

We also celebrated the opening of new canal at Malswick. A Members' Open Day was held there in September. It was very good that so many people came to see the work that has occurred and take a walk along the new canal, then enjoy a chat while having a cup of tea with cake and review the plans going forward for the site.

This report now covers both the complete calendar and Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust Financial year.

Work continues in many areas.

A planning application has created an opportunity to look at the terminus of the canal at Hereford, the planning for which is now going ahead, and some funds have been assigned to the H&G Canal Trust. Work continues with the planners as to how we can develop the basin in Hereford. The housing development at Holmer has hit some financial issues due to the developer going into receivership. In November we heard that the site owner has appointed another developer, and we will be following up with them to ensure the line of the canal as agreed in the initial planning application is still to be transferred to us. We continue to develop plans around Aylestone Park. Discussions are ongoing with the council linking with their city plans for the development of a Green Corridor along the canal line out to Aylestone Park and ensuring the route continues to be protected in the Herefordshire Local Plan that is currently under review.

Kymin: Ongoing site maintenance continued.

Yarkhill: Regular maintenance and vegetation clearance continued to keep the volunteers busy on this stretch of canal.

Adjoining Yarkhill: The team have gained access to the site next to Yarkhill and have done an excellent job of clearing the site. Unfortunately, we are finding that a number of landowners are happy to let us work sites but are not allowing the general public on to the site.

Ashperton: Some further work occurred but until we can get permission from the next landowners to reduce the level of the water we cannot do much further work on the site.

Ledbury: As mentioned in the last annual report the planning decision for the development of 625 houses and a number of factory units was given the go ahead to the north of the viaduct. Support for the H&G Canal Trust in land and money was also awarded. Unfortunately, discussions are still under way with the developer and Herefordshire Council to agree a way forward.

Dymock: The pump failed, was replaced and all well for a while, unfortunately it failed again. A further pump via a donation was supplied and this has worked well over the summer months. It will continue to be monitored.

Oxenhall: It was very pleasing to be involved in the replacement of the Stop Lock at the top of House Lock. The teamwork was excellent using skills across several sites. A small group of volunteers with help from Malswick volunteers are keeping the public footpath and the permissive way clear for the local walkers.

Newent: Whilst not a lot has happened on site, we now have a model of the proposed inclined plane that proved to be a good discussion point at a number of the shows the promotions team managed to get to throughout the year.

Malswick: With the planning permission finally received in November 2021, the team, with support from the Inland Waterways Association Waterways Recovery Groups, often known as WRGs, in 2022, enabled us to dig the canal and the first brand new piece of canal was filled with water in July 2023. With the next section of land purchased at the start of the

year the team is preparing to submit a planning application for this section and is looking at the longer-term plans for getting under the Newent to Gloucester road.

Moat Farm: Routine maintenance, including mowing of the grassy areas, continued to be the focus of work here. The 'wilder' areas occasionally needed intervention to enhance the habitats that have been created.

Over: The land slippage at Vineyard Hill - the area is pegged out and continues to be monitored. There is a plan to improve the ability to get boats along the section of canal at the bottom of the hill. The team is working with the other users on site. A number of the containers were moved around to enhance the look of the area as well as improving the storage of equipment for the H&G Canal Trust and Sailing4Disabled.

Heritage Boats: The boats continue to be worked on.

Apart from the existing users of the basin, the model boaters and Sailing4Disabled, we have had new users. We have had further visits by the fire brigade to practice their boating skills, and they also visited Aylestone Park to test out their pumps, the Brownies visited Malswick to do some planting.

Mill Barn: As reported in editions of the Wharfinger throughout the year we are continuing to work this forward. We have a design; the original planned location has had to change due to underground pipes. We are getting the paperwork aligned ready to apply for planning permission when time is suitable.

Llanthony: Both properties are let, and the lock basin has had a couple of visits for volunteers to keep the Wysis Way footpath open which runs through the lock. We have also reached out to the Community Payback Team who have continued this work.

One of the keys to a solid restoration is the involvement of others - councils, locals, all types of groups. Work has occurred to continue to ensure the canal route is protected and supported by all. Positive comments have been received about the change in direction the trust is now taking, after a few years of some negative comments. The sharing of ideas and use of social media with Facebook and the many videos that have been published on YouTube as well as extra local signage have helped with the messaging.

Membership: Although we sadly lose members each year, the overall figure has this year increased to 1125. With the ability to get out to shows to promote the Trust we have had a steady increase in new members. We thank members for their generosity with all their donations.

Volunteers: A steady increase and interest in getting involved in the restoration work. We always need more including volunteers who would be able to take on extra responsibility around the sites or get involved in the promotion of the H&G Trust at sales events or presenting at talks.

The Wharfinger: Its high standard has been maintained thanks to many volunteer hours given by writers, photographers, editors, proof-readers, layout and delivery.

Walks Leaflets: these have been selling well. A new walk at Ledbury was created.



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Website: This is constantly running behind the scenes. Queries are passed to the relevant H&G Trust member for a response.

Sales & Promotion: A very full calendar of promotion events, starting in Hereford with the Water Works Museum. Ledbury Community Day, Volunteer days at Malswick, Newent and Hereford, Braunston, Tibberton. Retro on the Water at Gloucester. The Winter Fayre at Newent was a very successful promotion and fundraising event seeing so many volunteers being involved and an increase in money to the H&G Trust even better than the 2022 splendid event.

Socials: A full calendar was undertaken, talks on many subjects, canal related, Rail related and another subject that Herefordshire is famous for, apples.

Grand Holiday Draw raised £2,000 Our gratitude goes to those who donate all the prizes.

Financial review, Achievements and Performance

We can report another good year financially. The income for the Trust and its subsidiary (The Wharf House Co Ltd) (excluding Restricted income) was £180k (2022 £162k) and rental income was £110k (2022 £104k). Costs were kept under control, with £82k spent including £62k on sites (2022 £70k). In consequence the companies recorded a useful surplus together totalling about £75k (2022 £30K). It was especially pleasing to receive a large, £35k, legacy which was much appreciated.

The Wharf House Co Ltd continued to trade profitably enabling it to pass over £60k to the Trust during the year to further the restoration projects. The Balance Sheets of both companies continued to strengthen and bank debt in the Trust continues to be repaid, with the long term bank loan being repaid by £15k during the year and now stands at £117k.

This year for the first time recently it was decided not to charge interest on the borrowings by The Wharf House Co Ltd from the Trust on the basis that it's a paper transaction and fairly meaningless. As a result the inter-company account should be reduced quicker over time.

Ralph Barber

Trustee

10th April 2024



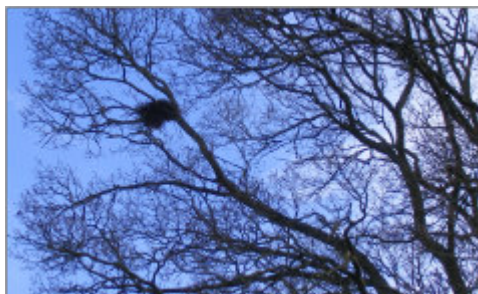
Last autumn many native daffodils and bluebells were planted beneath our two large oak trees. The trees' protective fencing provided the ideal place for them to grow and provide this display. The native bluebells have yet to flower, but at the time of writing it is only late April.

Spring is in the air

One of the oak trees has a large nest in it.

We suspect it is that of a local buzzard. We often see it scanning nearby fields.

The buzzards should have a great view of the cut



Small birds, such as blue tits, are also being encouraged to nest at Malswick.

Roger Combs kindly donated eight bird boxes and has modified many of the others that we have been given. The boxes have been installed (after researching the most suitable height and orientation) on trees along the cut.

Despite the appalling conditions Malcolm Clivery was able to make great progress preparing the towpath for the last section of the present project. Hopefully we will see it in water by the end of summer.

The Malswick team are on site every Tuesday.



*Philip Marshall and Mark Atkin,
making it look easy?*

Glorious mud!



*Words and pictures by
Alan McBride*

I had a good look at the Over report in Wharfinger 159 and thought that there had not been much to report on since, but thinking about it, a lot more has been achieved by the few loyal volunteers. A thank you from me to them for this.

Service Building

A new service building “Wendy House” has been built with underground ducts offering electrical service to this area.

The building is now complete.



Welfare Container.

The new container “suite” is now fully served by the new electrical and water installation. The electrical work involves a new underground duct to the one container, and new suitable underground cable terminating on a new internal consumer unit.

This serves the new LED lighting and sockets for a number of containers and the new service building for the Sailing4Disabled team.

All this has now been checked and certified by an authorised electrician.

The water supply has been installed using new plastic pipes both external and internal feeding cold services.



In addition to this a new small kitchenette has been obtained and installed, offering us now water, electricity and a kettle so what more is required?!! The containers having been moved has highlighted water ingress areas and these repairs are ongoing, but I am pleased to say the containers are now nearly fully dry.

The last action to undertake is the preparation of external container surfaces for a good painting. We are waiting on some dry spells of weather for this and maybe some intense weather dancing!!!

Mr Maysey Outboard

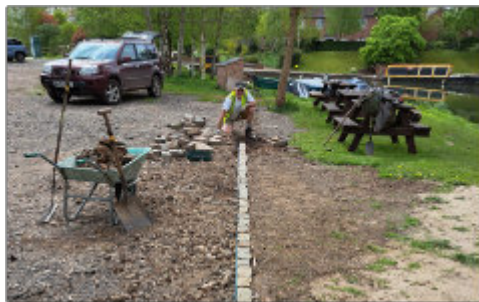
In preparation for the forthcoming boat trips a good inspection of the boat has been done. New paint was required in some areas, but it was more the case of repairs to the outboard Honda engine.

It was not running perfectly so a service was required. To undertake this a workshop manual was obtained from Canada along with carburetor service kits from North Wales and local volunteers to undertake the service. The steering cable, which was stripped and lubricated, has now been offered a clean bill of health in readiness of the trips.



Car Park

With the containers being rearranged and the old Portakabin reclaimed the area left behind was in need of work. The installation of a new granite block row has to offer demarcation of what is to be gravel car parking and a new grassed area has been completed.



Ballast has been brought in and the area levelled. Top soil has been located within the site and will be levelled up in readiness for seeding.

Alder Removal

The recent container rearrangements at the site being completed, a perfect waters edge location has been created to remove one of the trust heritage boats, Alder, from the water for its impending service. We now have the waters edge cleared and quotes for Alder's craning out acquired from suitable companies have been obtained. We have chosen one and the end of June 2024 is in the diary for this big task.

Dredging on the Vineyard

It has been apparent for some time that silt is building up along the Vineyard section at the site and a concern that in the height of summer, when there may be less water, the heritage boats could become grounded. To understand the actual state of the silt a day

was spent undertaking water depth levels along the areas of concern.

This has been transposed onto a cross sectional diagram offering us a good understanding of where the problem areas are, at least we know more of the scenario now.

Overflow leak

A canal has always had water as its greatest commodity, and we are aware that when there was a link between different canal companies stop gates were installed to prevent the flow between. Our small section in water at Over is no different with the only feeders being from the local housing surface water being piped into the canal. This offers a good level during winter but less so in the summer.

The Trust uses a diesel water pump in these times bringing water up from the River Leaddon, but attempts to find and repair leaks is ongoing and it has been noticed that there are leaks on the overflow spill. A good barrow load of clay was obtained and forced into the areas to prevent water loss with success. Let's hope it continues!!

Onto the next items for the forthcoming on the never-ending list of activities at the Over site - we meet every Thursday !!

Dave Goff

Oxenhall News



What are we doing after the wall is completed?

Well, get the stones out that some idiots pushed into the Ell brook. But what after that? This was part of a discussion that Martin and Ralph had one evening. A meeting was pulled together with the team at Oxenhall and several Trustees.

The finance man, Philip, the engineering guru, Bob, the promotions lady, Debbie, and David Gregory joined us (who has done a lot of drawings of possible work to happen at the site and along the corridor including Newent station).

Oh, yes, Ralph was present as well.

The Oxenhall team had done some measuring on the site and had several points they wanted to raise. The discussion was positive, and it is now a case of completing that wall. Also to resolve leakage we believe we have along the wild side.

Prior to that we need to remove the tree stumps that were created during the winter, so that lorries can get in and unload some clay.

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So, 7.00am on a bright sunny Tuesday the team met with a digger delivery and by the time a couple of Trustees got on site (always late to the party) the stumps had been extracted and were in the process of being moved.



Once the stumps were out of the way, several trial pits were dug along the willows.

Now that we have an idea of the state of the ground, we can further plan how do to the digging and then fill with clay to ensure we have a watertight section. Prior to that we have a lot of planning to do, both locally and also in getting a planning application in.

Of course, it is not just about playing around with diggers or re-building walls.

The work that has been done on the site over many years has created a wildlife area that these Moorhens have made home.

During the bird nesting season, we ask that the dog walkers keep their dogs on a lead.

The Oxenhall Team meet every Tuesday.

Words - Ralph Barber

Pics - Bob Hargreaves and Ralph Barber



Despite the rain and very poor ground conditions we have only cancelled two work parties since the New Year. Even more surprising there was only one week when just Harold and myself were on site, with all other work parties, encouragingly, having a good team in attendance.

Having obtained the Yarkhill site a significant grant, Robin Nicol busied himself spending part of it buying trees for planting whilst Matt Pattern's tree surgeon skills were used to attend to a number of dangerous trees. This resulted in the team having plenty to do. A small contingent was even called upon to work an extra day to get the tree planting underway.

Following on from the tree planting being completed the team commenced the major task of clearing the significant amount of branches and brush left on the ground following the tree surgeon's work.



This is the way it is planned. The surgeon does the work off the ground, and we do the work that's on the ground.

Some mowing and strimming were achieved towards the end of April, also the ditch digging squad no longer had the excuse that they could not dig in water. Mind you, looking at the state of the diggers at the end of the day, it must still have been quite wet and muddy!

The team was pleased to have a new volunteer Terry Chandler join us. He has been well initiated, being one of the muddy digging squad.

The Yarkhill Team meet every Thursday.

Words and pictures – Chris High



Two images from the archive of showing past canal restoration at Monkhide – see p20 for an update...

Kymin Towpath Works



Over the last few months, the team have managed to get down between the rain showers and fix some fencing that a tree had taken out.

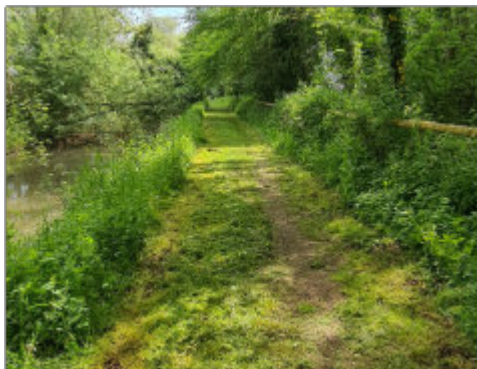
More recently with the grass now in full growth we managed to get down to improve the towpath and also be able to see the approach to the bridge.

The damaged fencing

At a previous working party one of the volunteers serviced a donated strimmer and it proved its worth while clearing the undergrowth at the bridge and then enabling the path to be widened with the mower following behind to keep it all trim.

Towpath before and after the strimmer action

Ralph Barber



...and a couple more of early canal restorers (any one familiar??) and boats on the water at Monkhide

Over Link Project



We continue to make progress towards the restoration of the lock at Over. We now have an estimate of £30k to complete the engineering drawings that will be required to submit a planning application to Gloucester Council.

The assumption is that we should try to get funding for 50% of the cost and to raise the remaining £15k through fundraising and donations. Members have already generously donated £3k, so we are on our way.

We are also trying to publicise the restoration project with the general public. We have designed and had created a display board which has been put in place in front of the lock.

We also have some paper versions of the same notice, and the intention is to try to get them put up in key locations such as the Waterways Museum.

A draft article is in preparation which is hoped will be of interest to both local newspapers and canal publications such as Waterways World and Towpath Telegraph.

Roger Morgan



HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

...rebuilding a sustainable canal between Hereford and Gloucester



Over Lock - Getting Re-connected...

The remains of Over Lock in front of you stand almost forgotten - a lost key to re-connect the Hereford & Gloucester Canal with the tidal River Severn.

For over five decades in the 19th century, this passageway allowed goods to be shipped all over the country as a vital trade connection for the hinterland of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, one of the most important locks in Britain. In use, it was probably the deepest lock in England at 30 feet deep - the size of two double decker buses on top of each other.



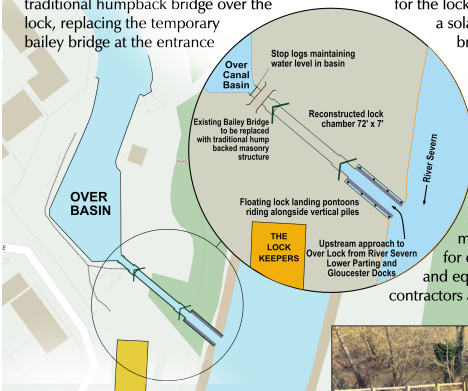
This would make it 10' (3m) deeper than the current deepest lock record-holder, Tuel Lane Lock on the Rochdale Canal in West Yorkshire, which lifts boats a full 19' 4" as they rise on their way to cross the Pennines.

With the right financial support and sufficient volunteers, this 150-year-old locked door could reopen to allow full-size 70' boats to pass through once again onto the river and back into the basin.

Restoration

The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust is undertaking an ambitious restoration of the lock, to include a traditional humpback bridge over the lock, replacing the temporary Bailey bridge at the entrance

to the basin and provision of a set of pontoons on the river bank which will allow boats to tie up safely whilst waiting for the lock. The lock will be fed by a solar-powered pump bringing water from the river to fill the chamber.



Your help is needed ...

... As much of the restoration work will be undertaken by volunteers, and significant sums of money are needed to pay for design, engineering, plant and equipment, outside contractors and materials.

If you would like to contribute to the cause financially, by lending your expertise, or by sharing 'good contacts', you can do so by scanning the QR codes below or by visiting our website at www.h-g-canal.org.uk/over-link.

Your support would be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

SCAN THESE QR CODES WITH YOUR SMART PHONE



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VOLUNTEER



EXPERTISE



Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee [No.2704407] and a registered charity [No. 1010721].



This image shows roughly where the footprint of the restored lock might lie.

When is an asset not an asset?

Well, when you have no use for it, and it is costing you money, taking time to bail out, or will cost you money to moor or move it.

It was a question that the board have been dealing with for the last six months. We have reported previously about a mud boat that is on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal . It was costing us money for the licence just being on a Canal and River Trust canal.

Its length of 72 feet meant we would require special transport and finding a home for it on our land where it would not become an eyesore brought us to the decision to lease or sell it.

A fellow Trustee took on the task of finding if another canal trust who would be interested in leasing it. Nobody wanted it so the board agreed to sell it.

In the meantime, we have had a very wet winter and a boat that is open collects water. When returning from a trip visiting family up north Ralph and Debbie met with fellow Trustee Ed and did a bit of bailing.

Fortunately the boat was aground and while also at an angle we could just get in and staying on the high side enabled us to bail.



Clockwise from top – starting work with the bucket; sitting down on the job; and time for a pint.

While the buckets proved useful, a bit of pumping was required and Ed, sitting down on the job controlled the pumping. After a couple of hours work, it was done and time for a pint.

So, what next, well the power of Facebook proved itself. Via a Facebook posting a message got back to the Chairman and following a couple of phone calls, a number of emails, an agreement was made to sell the boat. The new owner is based on the canal system and will be towing the boat to its new home and will be using it for its purpose – as a mud boat. They already have a number of traditional boats, so the boat is going to a good home. No more bailing out for us!

Ralph Barber

Monkhide section – need for restoration work



The canal at Monkhide was originally restored by the Canal Trust (at that time H&G Canal Society) in 1983–92 with the cooperation of the local owners and a major input from the Waterways Recovery Group.

The canal was then fully navigable and boats were based on the section in the 1990s and open days provided opportunities for the public to walk the towpath and enjoy boat trips. Unfortunately, a breakdown in relations between the local canal owners and the then leaders of the Canal Society, led to a cessation of maintenance and navigation later in the 1990s.



Narrowboat "Maria Ballard" leading a flotilla of smaller boats in 1995 approaching Monksbury Court Bridge



The same view from Monksbury Court Bridge but with no boats and with the canal channel now clogged with vegetation (2022)

This lack of maintenance has led to a serious deterioration in the value of the canal as a listed 'Local Wildlife Site' with the loss of much of the clear water habitat which is essential for wildfowl, bat species (particularly Daubenton's Bats), amphibians and mammals such as Water Vole and Otter.

The long row of old pollarded willows subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), on the bank opposite the towpath, which are both a landscape feature and provide important nesting/roosting holes for birds and bats are critically overdue for re-pollarding and some have already collapsed – although the two nearest Crews Pitch Wharf have already been restored by their owners with TPO consent.



A current view of the canal between Crews Pitch and Skew Bridge; now completely clogged with fallen timber. Work is needed urgently to save these old Pollard Willows and to restore clear water for the benefit of the wildlife species which require open water.

The Trust plans to start tackling the backlog of maintenance in cooperation with the local owners starting with the willow pollards. This work has been discussed with the Herefordshire Council's Trees Officer and an application for the necessary consent under the Tree Preservation Order is under consideration.

If approved, we hope to start work later in the year but not until after the bird nesting season and all work will be subject to continuing environmental checks, in particular for the presence of bats and other wildlife living in and by the canal.

The channel also needs to be cleared of debris to restore clear water – essential for its value as a listed 'Local Wildlife Site' with good aquatic habitat essential for the local wildlife.

The Trust has limited resources so the initial plan is to work on the stretch of canal between Crews Pitch and Skew Bridge, but we intend to have discussions with the other owners who have been doing their best to care for the canal in the hope that the full length can be restored, in due course, to the good condition it was in just a few years ago!

It should be noted that the Trust's plan is merely to return the canal to the condition it was in just 25 years ago.

Richard Appleton, Trustee – May 2024.

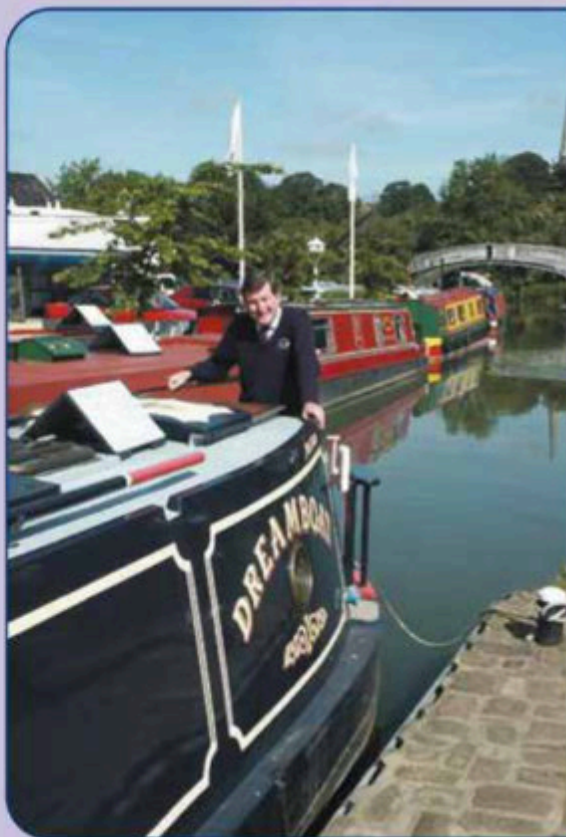
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Notification – Annual General Meeting 2024



The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust will be held on Wednesday, 26 June 2024 at 7:30pm in The Royal Oak, A449 Ross Road, Much Marcle HR8 2ND.

The formal notice of the 2024 AGM was published on our web site as required under the Articles 28 days prior to the above date. The Agenda, the Annual Report, Accounts and Finance Statements can be found on the website. In accordance with the H&G CT's Articles and Memorandum of Association, those members of the Board of Trustees who are retiring on rotation but offering themselves for re-election do not require to be formally nominated to serve an additional term.

New Nominations

New nominations to serve on board of Trustees are welcome. Requests for a nomination form should be made by the person making the nomination by email to ***agm@h-g-canal.org.uk***. Nominations should be submitted seven days prior to the AGM.

Proxy voting

Every member who is entitled to vote at an AGM may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy must be someone entitled to vote at the AGM. Proxy forms are also available via email to ***agm@h-g-canal.org.uk*** and should be completed, signed and returned to arrive at least 48 hours before the start of the AGM.

Email questions for answering at the AGM in advance to ***agm@h-g-canal.org.uk***.

The AGM will be paperless, so we will not be supplying copies of the Accounts, Minutes or Agenda at the door of the meeting, and the meeting will be shared via Zoom for those who are unable to travel to the AGM. To register for access to the AGM via Zoom, please email ***agm@h-g-canal.org.uk*** and further details will be supplied.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes from 2023
4. Chairman's remarks
5. To receive the report of the Trustees and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2023
6. To approve the appointment of an Independent Examiner of all the Trust's accounts
7. Proposal by Special resolution to accept the updated Articles
8. To re-elect Trustees standing down by rotation and nominations of new Trustees
9. Questions from the Audience
10. Close of formal business

Wrens Visit to the Canal at Over



Connecting our Senses to Nature again.

On a pleasantly sunny morning, we took a slow walk along the ½ mile of towpath next to the restored canal.

We were surrounded by bird song, spring flowers & water life. We paused in silence for a few mins to open our senses to the sights and sounds around us, to really be a part of the Spring re-awakening.



We scooped up some canal water to see the weird wee creatures that live there.

Then we were ready to enjoy a good pub lunch.

*Ginny Birkett – Wrens Group Leader
Newent U3A Nature Appreciation Group – The Wrens*

Remember the Trust in your Will?



Leaving a legacy in your will is a great way to assist us moving forward with the restoration of the canal ... for example one kind bequest enabled us to purchase Llanthony Lock.

Have you considered remembering the Trust in your Will, as a lasting legacy to be used towards the restoration of the H&G Canal into a 34 mile working waterway? Every single gift is vital to us and whatever the value of your gift, it will make a difference.

We've partnered with FreeWills.co.uk to provide our supporters with the opportunity to make their own fully comprehensive will for free. You can make your personalised will online in three simple steps, from the comfort of your own home and with live support from their will making specialists.



FREEWILLS



MORE INFO

If you need more information visit our website, or get in touch with the Canal Trust Trustees through our Contact Us webpage if you have any specific queries or needs.

Thank you.

I have an idea!



This idea started over a year ago – how about boat trips on the canal at Over?

It's not long enough, was the reply. So, investigations occurred and seeing others are doing trips on shorter distances, it was agreed to move forward. Anyway if you make it much longer people start to expect toilets on board or be served with tea and coffee.

A message went out that we are looking at doing boat trips on the canal at Over. Two people put their hands up for Crew training. This was done up on the Droitwich canal giving us two RYA IWHC qualified crew (Royal Yachting Association Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate). We then had to see if we could find a few more. A new volunteer, already trained, came forward and another who also does trips for another Canal Trust. That gave us five and then two more agreed to do the training. This was done at Over and on the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal giving us seven qualified crew. That was the crew sorted. Further details in this edition about the training undertaken.

The boat, as reported in the last Wharfinger, had new requirements to meet to ensure the boat was operationally safe. These were completed. Excellent work was done by the volunteers at Over to get the engine performing correctly. There was a bit of an issue with stalling when changing direction! The steering also required a bit of work as the boat had not been used much in recent times.

So, crew, boat in progress, how do we get the passengers,? Online would be good as we would have an idea of numbers. So, our web master was set the task to get a page on the website for booking tickets. To add to the challenge, we invited the Sailing4Disabled to join us and they have different requirements. Their boats can carry seven passengers, Mr Maysey carries eight passengers, they have the ability to carry wheelchairs and then the calculations start because if you have a wheelchair you have to reduce the number of passengers you can carry.

Of course, behind all this is the Terms and Conditions that had to be created, and ensuring that the insurance and licence were in place (Even though it's our water, under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 we may have to have something, so a volunteer was requested to communicate with the local council, with in a month we got an answer, all clear, nothing required.) A set of FAQ would be useful, oh, and what about dogs? Then the overall risk assessments had to be re-visited after we put some changes in place. As over half the crew have only been volunteers for less than a year and not all are based at Over, the introduction and the information we wanted to share with the passengers needed an update. So a bit of fact checking occurred and some further details regarding that lock, is it 10ft or 30ft? Why do we think it is 30ft, well in 1873 it was mentioned (want to know more, come on a boat trip on the second Saturday of each month to September and including September).

Well, have we done everything? A session with the two teams, H&GCT boat crew and the Sailing4Disabled ran through how it would or could work. Well as the saying goes, in preparing for battle (well an event) I have always found that plans are useless but planning is indispensable. As quoted by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The session went well, paperwork was shared, and then we had some emergency discussions on Mister Maysey and how to resolve different issues. Just in case. Then getting ready for the first event, oh yes, we had at least one booking come in, so now we had to deliver...

A visit to the Lock Keepers and discuss how they could help, and a discount voucher was produced; sorting out refreshments and seeing how this could be done as different people are involved on different weekends; a few final bits to sort out and then the big day – 11 May.



The team started to arrive at 1pm, gazebo up, notices hung, boats readied. Then the public started to arrive, booking people in, checking they had paid, taking payments for those who had not pre-booked all worked except the person who held the paperwork kept putting it down and forgetting where he'd put it! but it all worked and lots of people came to enjoy the beautiful canal at Over.

A big thank you to all who helped with this event, the Over team for getting the site match fit, the boating crew for giving the passengers a fun trip and all those involved in the background, our web master for getting us the ability to sell the tickets online, this brought in over 60% of the income, and the promotions team for working the refreshments.

And the weather? The weather was lovely – all as planned !

Ralph Barber

Mister Maysey and Sir Charles Morrison returning from Vineyard Hill with their passengers as the Summer Boats Trips begin.





Summer Boat Trips on the H&G Canal

Come to Over Basin and see how the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust are restoring the former Hereford and Gloucester Canal and take a twenty-five minute trip along a re-created section of canal.

Find us at the Over Basin

What3Words: ///firebird.stereos.flooding

Turn off the A40 at the traffic lights 250 yards west of Over roundabout (junction of A40/A417). Turn right just after the Lockkeepers into the basin. Postcode GL2 8DB

Trips on each boat will operate at 30 minute intervals on selected Saturday afternoons in 2024 including 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August and 14 September starting at 2.00pm with Mr Maysey and at 2.15pm with Charles Morrison. The last trip will embark at 4.15pm.

Refreshments available



Wheelchair users are welcome on Sailing4Disabled's Wheelyboat Sir Charles Morrison.

More information on the Trust and the Canal at www.h-g-canal.org.uk



TICKETS



OVER BASIN



FACEBOOK

As places may be limited we recommend that tickets be purchased online in advance –

www.h-g-canal.org.uk/shop

Terms and conditions apply.

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Promotions Team News



Newent Daffodil Day – March 23rd. A new event was tried this year in Newent on the Oxenhall Daffodil Weekend. H&G joined various other stalls in the hall. Staffed by Ginny Birkett, Barbara Moses and Tony Higgins – they felt it was an event well worth attending – speaking to lots of interested public. And it was warmer than standing outside the church at Oxenhall!

Braunston Marina Historic Boats Weekend – 29th and 30th June

The H&G will be promoting the Canal Trust as usual.

We are short on numbers to staff the stall – is there anyone who can help for part of either day?

Dip your toe in the water and come and help us spread the word – and sell a few books and draw tickets as well.



The Promotions Team receive a generous donation from Tim Cogan at Braunston Marina last year

Waterworks Steam Day, Broomy Hill, Hereford – 21st July

Come and see all the steam pumping engines working – you'll think they are alive.

A fun day for the family. Oh – and come and say hi to the team on the H&G stand. We look forward to seeing you.

More dates this year ...

Braunston Historic Boat Rally	29–30 June 2024
Hereford Waterworks Steam Day	21 July 2024
Tibberton Show	17 August 2024
Open Day	September TBC
Newent Winter Fayre	16 November 2024
Gloucester Archives	7 December 2024

As with every part of the organisation we would like some new helpers – PLEASE!

If you would like to help out – even for just a few hours – at any of our Promotions Events, please email Debbie at information@h-g-canal.org.uk or ring 01432 853 086.

Debbie Barber, Promotions Trustee

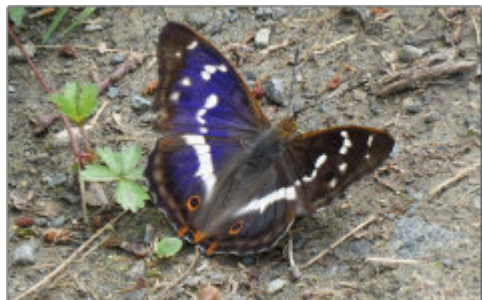


Social Evenings at Royal Oak

April's social featured a **Talk on Butterflies by Kenneth Newcombe**. In England we have fifty-nine species that are split into two groups. Fifty-seven reside in the UK and two, the Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow, are migrants.

The Painted Lady comes from Mid Africa, making a round trip of over 7,500 miles. It does it in hops and over several lifespans. Until recently it was unknown what happened to them at the end of summer and how it returned to Africa, but through technology, it has been found that they fly out of sight at up to two hundred metres, six hundred feet in old money, and the same butterfly may fly the whole of the 3,000 miles on return.

Eight butterfly species are on the red list meaning they are in danger of becoming extinct in Britain. Three of these species can be found in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.



A male Purple Emperor

While you may not think of butterflies as aggressive, the Purple Emperor is a large butterfly and has been known to attack birds.

This butterfly has been moving westwards and is now in Gloucestershire and will very likely be arriving in Herefordshire in the next couple of years.

One species, the Large Blue became extinct in this country in 1979 but was reintroduced through caterpillars from Sweden and now Britain has some of the largest populations in the world.

A Large Blue



For our next Social in May, we were given a **Talk entitled Port to Port by Paul Barnett**.

You may think of the Manchester Ship canal when you think about ship canals in the UK, maybe the Exeter Canal, but did you know that the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal is classified as a ship canal?

It was completed in 1827 to enable ships to avoid the River Severn to Gloucester and then continue up the River Severn and getting as far as Stourport. The docks at Sharpness are still alive today and are taking 3 to 4 times as much cargo as they did in the 1950's, mostly coal, timber, and cement.

The canal was built differently to traditional canals in part due to the depth requirement of 18ft from your typical 3-4 feet in a narrow boat canal. It was built 6ft down to start with and then a shelf going towards the middle and then another 6ft down and then a further shelf and a last 6ft down. Creating a number of ridges so the V-shape hulls of sailing boats could navigate the canal successfully.



Other facts that came out of the talk at the May meeting was that Sharpness at one stage, for a brief two weeks in 1931, had the tallest building the world until a building in the USA, actually in New York, took over.

Sharpness even at one stage had its own Big Ben, a crane that could lift thirty tons, and its partner Big Bertha.

While a lot of past boats shown in pictures are unfortunately now part of the Purton Wrecks it was nice to hear about a tugboat called Primrose that is now a houseboat in Hull.

A fascinating talk about one of the other waterways in Gloucestershire.

Ralph Barber

Big Ben and Big Bertha

Three-month Rescue/Recovery high for RCR



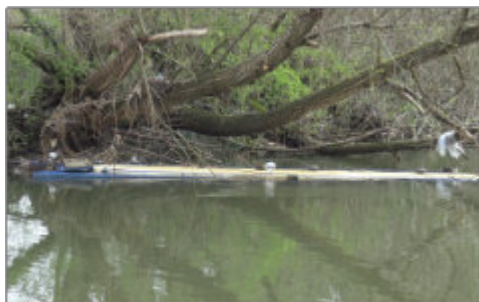
Unprecedented rainfall levels, water surges and numerous flood warnings resulted in River Canal Rescue (RCR) responding to more major incidents in the first three months of this year, than it did for the whole of 2023.

Between January and March, its teams responded to 155 major incidents (emergency situations either involving submerged, partially sunken or grounded craft, plus salvage work); in 2023 the figure for the year was 121.

The extreme weather conditions, which included storms Agnes, Babet, Ciaran, Debi, Elin, Fergus, Gerrit, Henk, Isha and Jocelyn hitting the UK between September 23 and January 24, tested RCR recovery teams who were unable to raise submerged boats and free land-locked vessels until water levels reduced and the rivers/canals were safe to enter.



Managing director, Stephanie Horton comments: "This has been a very challenging time for our teams; our ethos is to help people as soon as we can, but in some cases the weather and recovery conditions wouldn't allow us to do so. Thankfully, all vessels are recovered now, but many of the cases are heart-breaking where people have lost their homes and possessions."



Narrow Boat Old Lady sunk with the top of the roof just visible above the water, and then being recovered and pumped out.

Video recordings of a number of rescues in east London and Manchester, and on the rivers Avon, Soar, Witham and Great Ouse, can be viewed on RCR's official You Tube channel www.youtube.com/@rivercanalrescue6450

Words and pics by RCR



The new Lock Keepers Team - Brogan, Aleksey and Mairy

New team at The Lock Keepers



“A Hidden Gem” – the most said phrase when guests enter The Lock Keepers. Situated alongside the River Severn and beside Over Basin, The Lock Keepers is a hub surrounded by beauty 360°, a place to destress and breath in nature.

Aleksey, Brogan and their daughter Mairy took over The Lock Keepers in March as a family and have prioritised their time and passion into making the restaurant and hotel their own, one step at a time.

Aleksey has over 20 years in the hospitality industry, spending most of these years in Germany working in top Italian and French influenced restaurants.



Since moving to the UK in 2021 Aleksey has played around with recipes and has now created a beautiful menu collaborating British Pub influenced cuisine with classical French techniques and a Mediterranean twist using the freshest produce and working with limited weekly specials. The new menu will be introduced in mid-June.

Brogan's background was working alongside the best bespoke tailors in the world creating the finest suits and shirts.

“I look forward to seeing what someone with my ideas can bring to the hospitality industry, I treasure the fact that we can play around with our vision to see what works for this place, and of course listen to the stories and ideas of our customers to create a community that people ultimately enjoy coming to”.

Their aim is the make The Lock Keepers more known to the area and create a restaurant and hotel that has a unique flair, incredibly tasty food with a great selection of beer and wine.

The opening times are as follows:

Tuesday – Saturday 8am–9pm

Sunday 8am–6pm

You can book online or call us on 01452 332900

We also look forward to working and hosting guests and the team from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust and seeing how we can all work together to restore the 34-mile canal that runs past us.

We enjoy seeing Dave and his team on Thursdays making sure the area is looking pristine, and who work so hard for the charity.

We hope to see you all soon!

Brogan



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Training



With canal restoration you would normally think of digger or chainsaw training. This last month we have had a chainsaw refresher course. Frustrating – while a City and Guilds Chainsaw certificate is for life, our insurance company does not agree. They want any chainsaw operator to have refresher training every five years. Well done to Malcolm and Robert who undertook and passed their refresher training.

We also had some First Aid refresher courses – these are required every 3 years. It was good to see a mixed group of H&G volunteers as well as volunteers from the Sailing4Disabled.

Some happy volunteers with their certificates.



We also completed some further helmsman training in April. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient water to complete a full RYA course and no locks that we can take a boat through. So, three volunteers visited another canal down in Somerset on a beautiful day. The rain held off and the wind was just right for a training session. After working our way through the Gloucester rush hour, we travelled down to a RYA training centre along the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal. After working our way through four locks, completing six winding operations and dealing with a very challenging swing bridge all the volunteers training on the day received their qualification.

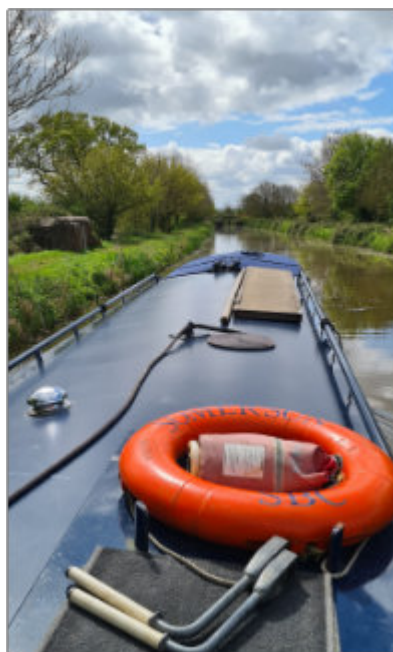
With the boat trips starting in May along the canal at Over, we also had a day of boat operations ensuring all the qualified helms knew the plan of the day.

We also did emergency drills and refreshed our memory of the history around the Over basin and boats as well as the English Heritage Scheduled Monument, with the rather plain name of Over earthwork.

We mostly know it as Vineyard and it was a Roman vineyard. The residence at the Vineyard on the top of the hill at Over was first built by Abbot Staunton 1343–1351 (which is no longer present). It was only a temporary structure with a parlour, but with a surrounding wall. Abbot Frocester 1381–1420 replaced it with a stone house and moat, parts of which can still be seen.

The buildings were demolished during the Civil War.

Ralph Barber



On Easter Sunday the club sailed at Over in very cold conditions; on Good Friday the sailors survived heavy rain showers, while the previous Wednesday the menu was sleet showers. The old cabin has now been taken away and so shelter is grass high! Inquisitive public are now returning for a canal-side walk and sometimes a general chat about our activities.

Under the guidance of Harbour Master John, we have had a couple of weeding sessions. The basin looks very spring like, daffodils are in bloom with various other plants and trees breaking into life. The use of the basin for our activities is as popular as ever, around eighteen sailors enjoy their Friday sailings supported by a good number of motor boaters on Wednesdays and Sundays.

To our models...

A fine American jeep has been built by Chris Lane. First lesson, do not leave your Action Man toys lying around as this is the base of the model. The toy, 1977 vintage, was sold to sail in shallow waters, its propulsion came in the form of a battery powered small torpedo motor. The jeep is now propelled by a modern brush-less motor of 7.2volts. The propeller is two bladed fitted in front of the rudder which is servo controlled. A correctly hinged opening bonnet allows access to the battery. The flag is correct for the 1972 era.



The pictures show the model on display and also escorted by model MTB's to the turning circle at Over.

Another unusual craft, completely scratch built is a pusher tug and barge. Mike's model is based on a Rhine barge which has a shallow draft, ideal for rivers and canals. The model is to 1/32 scale, approximately 24in long with a beam of 9in. To connect the tug and the pair of barges two powerful magnets have been used. The tug is powered by two brush-less motors with steerable Kort nozzles to provide maximum thrust.

The photograph (opposite) shows the combination proceeding along the canal to Over basin for unloading, one carrying a container for the use of the Model Boat Club, the other barge a new beer storage tank for the Lock Keepers beer cellar.

Sailing4Disabled / Rowing Pirates



Hello all,

Well, where can one start – good news and sad news! Good news is that we are in great demand for our boating experience, the sad news is that our wish for a second Wheelyboat has fallen on deaf ears. As everyone is trying to get on the water (they were intended for disabled fisher men (sorry persons) to be able to get on the water) they have proved so popular that the original version is not made any more of aluminium but now various versions of the same boat are available, but more expensive and larger, in fibreglass! Our name is on the waiting list for a second-hand one to become available for purchase. In the meantime, we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible in a safe way.

Four of us took the offer of being First Aiders thanks to H&G – a great day was had that took me back to my working days (many years ago).

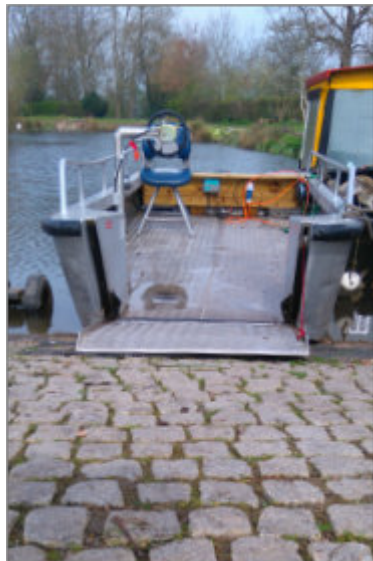
We are looking forward to helping with the Saturday events at Over, and seeing how the public appreciate what is being achieved at Over and the promotion of the whole project!

Till next time, tight lines, full sails and dry weather.

Pirate Pete and our volunteers.

Sailing4Disabled are at Over Canal Basin from 11am to 2pm every Tuesday. The group runs a number of craft on the Over Basin including Kata-canoes and a wheelchair-friendly Wheelyboat. Full assistance is provided to all to enjoy the water experience including lifejackets. Contact them on 07913 015018 or email pbiss44@gmail.com.

Pirate Pete and his team have joined forces with the Trust to run the Summer Boat Trips at Over Basin, making the opportunity to travel on the water more accessible to wheelchair users and others with limited mobility – see more on these on pages 25–27.



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Fundraising with Used Stamps



Folks, the "Stamp-Meister" here with the latest report on our "Fundraising with Used Stamps" appeal.

Since the last Wharfinger there has been a steady flow of stamp-donations coming directly to me and I also ventured down to Hereford in March to collect several large lots which were too bulky to post.

Among these lots were many old albums and although sadly I didn't find a British Guiana 1c Magenta (see the last issue) there was sufficient material of interest in them that they were all snapped up by members of my local stamp club.

Also in these large lots were a considerable number of old GB and Foreign coins, some of which have already found new homes and some for which I have a potential customer in mind (although he doesn't know it yet!).

As a result, I am confident that we will be passing the "£5,500.00 raised" milestone in the next few weeks, so please keep hunting out and sending me those unwanted stamps, coins, banknotes and medals and who knows, maybe we'll reach that magic £6,000.00 mark before the end of the year!

Please hand your donations either to Janet at any social meeting, or send them directly to me at:

H&G Stamps, 35 Lime Road, SOUTHAM, Warwickshire, CV47 1EQ.

Steve Bence, aka "The Stamp-Meister"

Upcoming Monthly Socials



Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at 7.30 for 8 pm in the The Royal Oak at Much Marcle, HR8 2ND

20 June 2024	No meeting as AGM on 26 June 2024
18 July 2024	Steve Bence on What Happens to Those Stamps
15 August 2024	A chance for just a Drink and a Chat
19 Sept 2024	Bernie Jones on the Shrewsbury and Newport Canal restoration

More meetings and speakers will be arranged for later in the year.

Please come along and bring your friends.

We cannot invite speakers to travel long distances for a small audience.

Ideas for speakers or topics would be very welcome

Janet Moulton

Regular Volunteer Work Parties

Volunteer work parties regularly convene at restoration sites as listed below. Please contact team leaders to check for latest situations.

Tuesdays

Malswick
Robert Heigham
malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Oxenhall/Newent Station
Martin Boulton
oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

Second Sunday each month

Herefordshire Roving Team
Ralph Barber 07836 347427
hereford@h-g-canal.org.uk

Thursdays

Over Basin/Vineyard Hill
Dave Goff
overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk

Yarkhill
Chris High 01568 615 575
yarkhill@h-g-canal.org.uk

As Required

Hereford City Team
Tony Higgins 01432 850408
herefordcity@h-g-canal.org.uk



Please submit your copy for Edition 161 to the magazine editorial team no later than 26 July 2024.

Ideas, text and images by email to editor@h-g-canal.org.uk.

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hereford@h-g-canal.org.uk

Hereford City Team Leader – Tony Higgins

01432 850408

herefordcity@h-g-canal.org.uk

Want to Help?

The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from gardeners to first-aiders, brickies to those willing to help with a shovel, pen, laptop or phone!

The H&G CT also welcomes offers of gifts of good quality used tools and machinery from those who no longer need or cannot use it.

Want to Join?

Please support our voluntary work by becoming a Member of the H&GCT. A membership application form is available online or from our Membership Secretary.

Membership Rates	Annual	Life
Individual	£15.00	£300.00
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greatly assists us and payment remains under your control.

All application forms and payments by cheque please to:
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Visit our website:

www.h-g-canal.org.uk

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Membership records are computerised. Your entry is available for inspection if you send a SAE to the Membership Secretary.

We try to ensure details of talks/events are correct — please verify with the relevant organiser if travelling long distances.

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The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



Over Basin Project

Over Basin was created in 2½ years after an agreement with a local housing developer. The basin, the perimeter walls, slipway, and surrounding grounds were created by local volunteers and the IWA WRG volunteers. Work continued by the H&G volunteers to develop and fit out The Wharf House, now The Lock Keepers Bar and Restaurant. The basin is the home of the Trust's heritage fleet - now comprising of Renton, Bosley, Alder, Mister Maysey and Susan-E. It is used every week by walkers enjoying the canal side towpath as well as Sailing4Disabled, a local model boat club has a number of sessions each week. Even the Fire Brigade have been to practise their skills on the canal.

The site can be found at Over, off the A40 just west of the A40/A417 roundabout – use postcode GL2 8BZ or What3Words [///branching.skirt.cringe](https://www.what3words.com/branching.skirt.cringe) – and follow signs for the Lock Keepers. Please do not block access to the site or The Lock Keepers when visiting. It should not be assumed that Rights of Way exist.

We work on the Canal with the cooperation of land owners and their neighbours.
Please help us maintain good relations with them - thank you.

The H&G Canal Trust

The Canal Society, formed in 1983, became the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity, in 1992. Our objective is to rebuild the 34 mile Canal linking the centre of Hereford to Gloucester and its connection with the 2,500 mile inland waterway network. We have major restoration sites in each county, together extending to some 4 miles. The intention is to provide a financially sustainable independent Canal which does not require regular financial support from public bodies for its future operation and maintenance.

Work on the original canal started in 1792 from Gloucester, reaching Ledbury by 1798, and Hereford in 1845 using 22 locks and 3 tunnels. It closed in 1881 to allow construction of the Ledbury-Gloucester railway which itself closed in 1964.