

CUT BOTH WAYS

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust



"The Friends of the Garden of Reflection have stepped up their objection to the passenger boat Lichfield Rose using Gallows Wharf as a permanent base..."

A Painting by Stuart Sampson (see page 16)

Issue No. 107
Spring 2021



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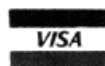
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My last report was a bit despondent: not my usual style, but I guess resulting from the crazy year we had endured with COVID.

Here we are now in Spring 2021 with the clocks having changed and giving us more daylight hours – not just for volunteering, but probably more importantly for our outlook on life!

And, the weather's improving (though in the last week or so our stalwart volunteers have frozen on site, so will probably disagree – sorry guys and gals, but huge thanks for your stoicism!)

Even when the weather's been less than nice, the footfall on our towpaths and nature trails stayed well up on previous years. At Fosseway and Gallows Reach whatever the weather you can always see people walking and cycling – for sure our paths have been invaluable throughout the pandemic.

It's also led to a significant increase in both volunteer and membership applications. As the restrictions are easing more of our longstanding volunteers are returning to work. We still have to be mindful of social distancing and keeping work groups small. Even with all the constraints of the last quarter restoration has progressed at an incredible pace and with superb teamwork.

At Gallows Reach no sooner had a stretch of canal wall been renovated and later piling installed than Paul J is fast behind not just laying the towpath but turfing along its edges, too. In order for that to happen he had liaised with others to ensure that materials were on site for him. Similarly, the several teams working at Fosseway and Falkland Road have closed the gap in the wall, continued with the channel excavation, concreting, block, brick and clay work. Almost daily the topography of the Falkland Road canal space changes, as a bund is created with the turf removed from the channel area.

Smaller teams have been working in other locations, too. The widening of the channel at Lock 24 determines that the towpath must now go across the bywash. It could have had a steel girder to span it to support the path, but no! The original restorer of the bywash, Rick the Brick (with the late Barry back in 2016) said he'd do it in the way it would have been done 200 years ago, and hence the perfect arches you can now see! Rick and George have also worked on Pound 27; Dave Price has been working near Lock 18 on the canal wall, and I can assure Tony C that his restoration of the picnic table there is immensely valued.

And there's been much weeding, tidying, rescuing and replanting of snowdrops and daffodils by the Grounds and Green team. Also, several hundred saplings bought with South Staffs Water's Pebble Fund Grant have been planted along Falkland Road, and there are more to come as we progress the bund towards Birmingham Road.



And on 2nd April Jane and Brian Taylor came to Falkland Road on their Golden Wedding anniversary, which was also Brian's 85th birthday to see Peter and Jeanne Buck plant the first three of 50 trees they have donated to celebrate their 50 years of marriage. The trees will stand proud of the hedging, and more will be planted at intervals along Falkland Road as we progress the bund. We are most grateful for the Taylors' generosity in celebrating their anniversary in such a wonderful way.

And more good news: we reinstated the DofE work party on 3rd April. So good to have these hard working and delightful young people back with us, and, though of course very sad, I am pleased that they were together on 10 April to observe a minute's silence for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh just less than 24 hours after his death.

So far I've reported the visible stuff. As ever, this can only happen with hours and hours of behind the scenes work. And this quarter has seen many more virtual meetings with other agencies, several worrying issues and therefore phone calls, emails, meetings, reading reports and hours at screens. We must never be complacent, but it is worth reporting that the now several years old relationships with Persimmon and Amey (the County Council's Highways contractor) continue to be very positive, as have been the recent negotiations with FIL which owns the land west of the mainline railway and on which the canal will be made in its access to the planned tunnel. Unimaginable hours and very smart negotiation skills have been expended particularly by Derek Lord and Peter Buck.

Here's hoping that the next quarter continues to reward all our volunteers (front of house and behind the scenes), members and followers with ever more successes and, please, a few less problems!

Chris Bull, (Chairperson)

You can join the AGM in two ways: online using a PC, laptop or smart phone or by phone. We do recommend using the online version if you have internet access as you'll be able to see us as well as hear us. Don't worry if you don't have a webcam or mic, you can still join the online version of the AGM, you'll see and hear us but we won't see or hear you.

We can accommodate up to 100 people using Zoom so we will need you to register that you want to attend.

To register:

- For online access fill in the registration form on
<https://www.lhcrt.org.uk/news/agm-2021.html>.
- For phone access please call or text Christine Howles on 07852 190855 (please leave a message if there's no answer) and give your full name and telephone number.

Please note: Your usual call rate will apply for the cost to join the AGM by phone.

Once you have registered, we will add you to the list and send you the details on how to join nearer the time.

Notice is hereby given that the 31st.Annual General Meeting of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd. will be held via a “Zoom” internet meeting on Friday 4th June 2021 at 7.15 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the 30th. Annual General Meeting held via a “Zoom” internet meeting on Friday 4th September 2020
3. Matters Arising.
4. Directors’ Reports.
5. Treasurer’s Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ended 31st. December 2020.
6. Chairman’s Report.
7. Election of Directors:
 - (a) Directors retiring by rotation and, are eligible to stand for re-election:
Christine Howles, Derek Lord, Stefan Szulc, Brian Williams
 - (b) Directors co-opted during the year and nominated by Council for election:
None
 - (c) Any other nominations received.
None
8. Appointment of Accounts Examiner:
Dains LLP - Chartered Accountants.
9. Any Other Business.
10. Close of formal business.

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 2020 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 this AGM.

Those persons who wish to attend the “Zoom” meeting should contact the Trust, see page 4 for how to register.

Donations to the Trust: 1st January to 31st March 2021

Donations during this period from individuals and groups, plus ancillary items, totalled £15,194 including those to the Tunnel Vision Appeal plus Gift Aid tax claims for UK taxpayers who completed the required formalities.

Assistance was given during this period of reduced activity enforced by social distancing by the following, in alphabetical order:

Site work:-

- Westwood Building Services, plant.

Other activities:-

- Lichfield City Council project management support.
- Lichfield Mayor & Sheriff's charity fund-raising events into 2021.
- All our Facebook followers who have donated to our fundraisers.
- Owen commercials Vans for sale, Cannock.
- South Staffs Water PEBBLE fund.

And all L&H Trust volunteer teams on...

- Canal restoration, plant maintenance and repair.
- "Green and Grounds" Team, planting and vegetation control.
- Maintenance of Heritage Towpath Trail.

**Our grateful thanks to all who
support the Trust in so many ways.**

Membership rates are:

Adult £10; Family £15; Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £6;
Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Small Business £100,
Large Corporate £200; Life Membership £200,
Family Life Membership £300 (includes children up to age 18).
To join, please contact the Membership Secretary (see above),
view our website www.lhcrt.org.uk or email members@lhcrt.org.uk

ANNOUNCEMENT

We were saddened by the passing at the age of 94 of Mr Mark Farrant of Freeford House by the canal on Tamworth Road. He was a long-standing member and keen supporter of our Trust, having retired from prominent roles in the Lichfield community.

Welcome to New Members – 1st January to 31st March 2021

J. Stockdale, Attleborough, Norfolk	T. Hodgson, Lichfield
K & R. Thomason, Leeds	N. Lee, Lichfield
R. Snell, Ellesmere Port	S. Trelfa, Lichfield
A. Harvey, Walsall	M. Whitfield, London
M. Clements, Honiton	I. Williams, Lichfield
I. Sesnan, London	J. Moore, Lichfield
T. Dugdale-Pointon, Packington	R. Kemp, Coleshill
M. Hibbert, Mablethorpe	K. Stechbart, Glendora, California
T. Stephenson, Wolsingham, Co. Durham	J. Yarnell, Lichfield
S. Davies, Burntwood	R. Vaughan, Longdon
P. Massey, Lichfield	D. Drake, Great Wyrley
B. Massey, Lichfield	P. Healey, Burntwood
P. Shannon, Lichfield	G. Jackson, Lichfield
J. Wilson, Muscat, Oman	C. Winter, Lichfield
H. Wileman, Lichfield	J. Bostock, Lichfield
C. Wales, Ringstead	C. Wellings, Lichfield
C. Wills, Sydney	A. Bateman, Lichfield
N. West, Pelsall	A. Bradley, Sutton Coldfield
S. Donnan, Whittington	A. Ferguson, Lichfield
C. Christmas, Birmingham	A. Levett, Plymouth
G. Mattam, Norwich	A. Johnson, Lichfield
J. Mattam, Norwich	J. Martin, Whittington

We welcomed 57 new members this quarter – thank you to all of you for joining us. I thought you might be interested to know how people find out about us and join.

This quarter the majority (23) of our new members joined because they are local and have talked to our volunteers or walk the towpath or have driven by our sites.

The second largest group (18) joined from seeing us on social media, including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and our new group on NextDoor. Others have joined us because they are canal enthusiasts or from word of mouth talking to friends or family or from finding us on the internet. Of course, there will always be some overlap, as people may know about us one way, but are prompted to join us due to something else, but it's interesting to get a flavour of how people join. We welcome you all!

Christine Howles, (Events, communications and stand-in membership secretary)

Membership Total at 31st March 2021 :- 2080
(Comprising 381 Adult, 1036 Family, 243 Life, 413 Retired, 1 junior, 6 other)



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.

A full copy of the updated rules is available on our website.

280 subscribing members were eligible to share £420.00 in the March draw.

So please spread the word.

The winners of the March 2021 draw are, abbreviated for GDPR:

First prize £ 218.40 No 136 Stackhouse, Walsall.

Second prize £ 142.80 No 30 Wright, Telford.

Third prize £ 58.80 No 200 Buckley, Selston, Notts.

The “500 Club” Capital Fund has been established to raise funds for capital expenditure on land purchase and rebuilding structures on the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals. For an annual subscription of £12 Club Members are allocated 1 chance in each of 4 successive quarterly draws. Based on a membership of 500, the maximum prizes will be:

1st Prize £400 approximately 26% income

2nd Prize £250 approximately 17% income

3rd Prize £100 approximately 7% income

If there are more or less than 500 members, the prizes will be proportionally increased or decreased. So the more 500 Club members we have, the higher the prizes. Remember, membership of the 500 Club is open to everyone, not just members of Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

So please spread the word. If you want to subscribe, you can download an application form from our website www.lhcr.org.uk. Pending appointing a new administrator, please contact Bob Williams, Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, WS7 0JP

(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)

TREE-MENDOUS DONATION TO LICHFIELD CANAL TRUST

A couple have celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary by donating 50 trees to us. Jane and Brian Taylor were present on Brian's 85th birthday to see the first four trees planted at Falkland Road, along the new hedgerow.



Jane and Brian Taylor,
who have donated 50 trees to LHCRT

Jane has been a member of Walsall Spinners, a group dedicated to the crafts of spinning and weaving, for 34 years and began doing hand-spinning demonstrations at the Huddlesford Heritage Gathering. Meeting members of the Trust combined with a family tradition of organising events to raise money for charity led to the donation of the trees, Jane explained:

"It's nearly 60 years since my mother began the tradition of a thank-you get-together meal. Whenever we had a family, friends, neighbours, carers, spinners, scouts, and colleagues gathering, which was at least five times a year, we provided a buffet and we chose a charity for donations from suggestions by the participants. These donations were always put in 'the golden pot' and the tradition has spread to other celebrations as well. It was therefore tree planting for nature, global warning and everyone's pleasure in the future which was our choice as a thanks for the blessing of friendships over the years.

"The amount of work you all do and the volunteering you encourage deserves support."

Christine Howles, (Events and Communications)





**Chris and Peter with
Pete Aspley and Caroline
Cooper**

LICHFIELD CANAL
FALKLAND ROAD /
FOSSEWAY HEATH

**Peter's artist's
impression**



The landscape along Falkland Road changed dramatically at the end of March thanks to a grant from South Staffs Water.

We successfully applied for a grant through the South Staffs Water PEBBLE Fund – Projects that Explore Biodiversity Benefits in the Local Environment – and we were awarded £2,300 to plant hedging along Falkland Road. The grant means we can plant all along up to Claypit Lane and maybe even a bit further.

Our volunteers created an environmental bund and then Pete Aspley and Caroline Cooper, directors from South Staffs Water, came along to help us plant the first 100 hedging whips. Caroline said:

“We want to protect and enhance the environment for our customers, communities and for future generations. Our PEBBLE fund aims to do that, by supporting existing community groups and charities, which are already working hard to increase the variety of natural living things. Hedges provide important ecosystems, as well as shelter and protection for other plants and animals, so we're really happy to be supporting the canal trust's project.”

Christine Howles, (Events and Communications)



Borrowcop locks – old Lock 24

Rick the brick, ably assisted by George Cross, have completed the brick arches at Lock 24 bywash. This is for the path diversion so that we can work on widening old Lock 24. It could have been simply filled in, or an RSJ used but with Peter's fantastic design and Rick's skill, it now has brick arches to keep the bywash looking similar to how it might have been.



With the new path laid by Dave and Paul, and Rick starting on the herringbone finish, the path is looking great.

Fosseway

There's always another brick in the wall at Fosseway and, this month, the team finished the basin wall at the south side of the basin. This means, they can now link up the nature trail for a fully-circular walk.



The canal wall along Falkland Road is progressing and we now have full access to work on the next section along Falkland Road so it's full steam-ahead.

The brickwork will continue as far as the new embankment we built last year and then the sides will swap to piling – or that's the plan.





The canal will be in a deep cutting as the land rises along Falkland Road, which you can see in this photo:



Further along Falkland Road to Claypit Lane, the team have created an environmental bund which will be used to plant hedging (see page 11).

Gallows Reach

Preparations are well underway for the lift bridge at the Longbridge Road footpath. Piling is underway, brick facing is being added, the path laid and turf too.



Work is slightly hindered by the re-emergence of the 'Big Pipe' just where we need to add the piling on the offside. The team managed to get a couple of piles in place but the rest will have to wait for a while.



When is a mooring post not a mooring post?

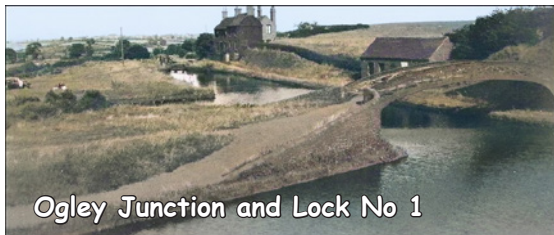
Did you spot the anchor points for the mooring in the Gallows Reach photo? Why buy new when you can recycle? These were old digger rollers, which the team have cleverly up-cycled into posts.

*Christine Hawles,
(Events and Communications)*

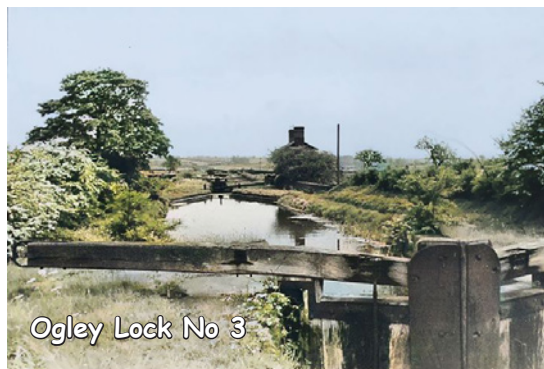


PICTURING THE PAST, IMAGINING THE FUTURE

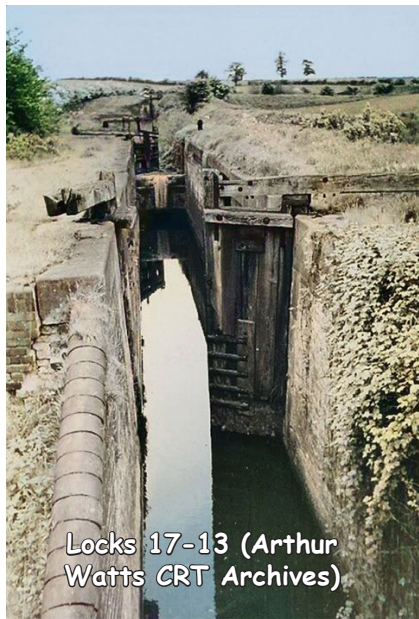
The Lichfield Canal and the Hatherton Branch were abandoned in the mid 1950's. Both lines had been in decline for a while before then so there are few of us who remember what they looked like when they were still working. The Cannock Extension survived with a brisk trade for another 10 years but, along with the great flight of locks at Churchbridge, have been almost entirely erased. What would it have been like to visit the canals when they were still intact?



Ogley Junction and Lock No 1



Ogley Lock No 3



Locks 17-13 (Arthur Watts CRT Archives)

Over the lockdown myself and Andy Tidy (aka Captain Ahab / Canal Hunter) have been collecting old images of these canals and other lost sections of the BCN. These images can be seen on our two blogs, allowing us to virtually visit the canal as it was and to see features that have been lost forever. In this issue we'll show some pictures of the Lichfield Canal, in future issues we will show some of the Hatherton and Cannock Extension. If you know of any other older pictures of the canal, we would love to hear from you. We still have a number of blind spots!

<https://lostbcnimages.blogspot.com/2020/04/blog-post.html>

<https://captainahabswaterytales.blogspot.com/2020/04/ogley-locks-home-page.html>

Duncan Moore

Copy Date for the next issue is 5th July.



We've joined the brand-new Lichfield Community Lottery as an additional fundraiser and so far we're on target to raise over £4,000 this year from ticket sales – which is a nice boost to our regular income.

Weekly ticket cost £1 and if tickets are bought through our lottery page—we receive 50% of the ticket sales (with 10% going to help other Lichfield causes). The weekly jackpot for ticket buyers is £25,000 and each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win one of the prizes each week.

So, if you fancy a flutter and want to help us in the process, join the lottery.

Do you have to commit for a long time?

No—you can set up a monthly recurring payment plan via Direct Debit or payment card or you can pay for a block of one, three, six or twelve months of weekly tickets on a non-recurring basis.

There's no commitment to stay in the lottery and you can choose to leave at any time.

How do you join?

The easiest way is online:

www.lichfieldcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/lichfield-and-hatherton-canals-restoration-trust

Or you can call the dedicated Lichfield Community Lottery number – 01543 747512 – to register and set up payments.

Good luck!



A Lichfield artist and life member of the trust, is donating his paintings of the canals to help us raise funds.

Stuart Sampson is known for his graphic design in waterways guidebooks and magazines, but has revived his interest in painting during the lockdown. A life member of the

Trust, Stuart has chosen a vision of Lichfield Canal in water as his subject for a series of paintings, which he collectively describes as 'Wishful Thinking'. He has tried to merge the present with a parallel universe where the canal had never been abandoned, and which one day might look very similar.

Stuart told us:

"Pictorial fake news has been about since humans discovered that iron ore could be used to selectively stain cave walls—it's called art. Anything could be imagined and depicted, take the dress code of the folks adorning the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel for instance.

Less flesh tones in my paintings though and they are not meant to be a look into the future, they are just wishful thinking. I don't suppose we will still be navigating colourfully decorated steel tubes round the canals when the last bricks are laid for the Lichfield Canal. More likely boats will be made from plant-based composites, shaped by computer for minimum drag and powered by renewable energy.

Instead, I have tried to merge the present with a parallel universe where the canal had never been abandoned. If you use the Heritage Towpath Trail you might even, with a little imagination, be able to turn some of my daubs into some of today's more recognisable dog walkers enjoying being out with the boats.

I have donated the original acrylics to the Trust for fund raising. I am probably better known for graphic design in waterway guidebooks and magazines than as an 'established artist', so the paintings won't fetch great sums at auction. Judge them just for what they are, a little escapism from lockdown, and enjoy."

AS PRETTY AS A PICTURE

With lockdown preventing us holding any in-person events, we started an online raffle with Stuart's paintings.



First up was the painting of “Boats to pass each other below Lock 25” at Borrowcop Locks, which was won by, local lass, Christine Selwyn.

The second painting was “Fictional trip boat ‘Lichfield Rose’ moored at Gallows Wharf” and this one will be proudly in place on the wall in Deborah Goss’s Canadian home. Deborah’s parents accepted the painting on her behalf until her next trip to Lichfield and to the canal which she always visits when back in the UK.



Stuart’s third offering was slightly different as he offered it for auction with the chance for someone’s boat to be featured in the painting. The auction was won by Monica Bett, who was over the moon to see her boat “Rosa” featured by the Boat Inn, at Summerhill.

So far, Stuart’s paintings have raised over £260 for us and there are more to come. You’ll also see the paintings

in our calendar for 2022 and on other items too, so watch this space and check out our raffle website: <https://raffall.com/lhcrf>.

Christine Hawkes, (Events and Communications)



Huge thanks to Beth Toovey for raising over £1,000 for us and helping the restoration of the picnic bench at Lock 18 to happen.

Beth wanted to create a special place to celebrate her best friend, the late Geraldine Agnew's life. Geraldine, was gym manager at Lichfield Health and Fitness Club for many years, and became a huge part of the community. Beth wanted to do something that was easy for friends and family of Geraldine to get involved with and feel part of creating a special place where they can remember and celebrate Geraldine's life.

Many of Beth and Geraldine's runs were along the canal and the bench at Lock 18 is really close to one of their favourite longer runs. So, Beth set up a Just Giving page and the response to the appeal astonished her, with £603 raised within 12 hours, smashing her target of £500, and it has so far attracted £963 of donations.

This has resulted in the restoration of the picnic table at Fosseway Heath plus a much-needed cash boost for us.



Thank you to Beth and all the donors! *Christine Howles, (Events and Communications)*

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.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH MINUTE'S SILENCE

Our DofE and green team volunteers held a minute's silence in memory of Prince Philip during their first work party after lockdown restrictions were eased.

The scheme bearing the Duke's name has supported our work over the past seven years. The scheme not only benefits us with additional volunteers but gives the wonderful young people a chance to learn new skills, work as a team and contribute to restoring heritage. Another minute's silence was observed before the start of the monthly volunteer's form and board meeting in April.



OYEZ OYEZ – A BENCH FOR KEN

Fosseway has a new dedication bench for Ken Knowles, Sword Bearer and Town Crier for the City of Lichfield, who sadly passed away in September 2020.

Ken had been a regular part of civic life and major events in the city since taking up the role in 2009 and he was crowned world champion town crier in 2015 after a three-day competition in New Zealand.



Huge thanks to Tony Cadwallader who, at the last count, had made 58 benches for us. All proceeds go directly into our fundraising pot.

Balance sheet–fixed assets

Realisable freehold assets are the two Ogleby Cottages No.271 and No.272 where the whole of infilled Lock 1 runs across their front gardens at the Lichfield Canal summit on the eastern outskirts of Brownhills. Whilst depreciated in the accounts to £465,150, their market value is estimated to be about £540,000. Both are jointly subject to a legal mortgage to the Charity Bank to secure the loan shown under Liabilities, initially towards the canal tunnel under Birmingham Road in 2007 and increased in 2018 to contribute to the Tunnel Vision Fund for extending that tunnel under the adjacent railway, delayed by Staffordshire County Council from 2018 for reasons beyond the Trust's control.

Unrealisable areas of land donated by District and County Councils brought the number of canal site possessions to seventeen at a historic cost of £165,686. Outside the Trust's possession, over 25 years there have also been 12 areas of donated land and structures built by or for LHCRT at a historic cost of £2,413,963 but do not have a realisable value due to their dedicated locations.

Owned plant had a depreciated value of at £1,386 despite the machinery returning good value due to well organised regular maintenance. Additionally, with thanks to Plant Director, Steve Webster, substantial high-value items of his privately-owned plant have been made available for Trust work.

£1,000 capital is held in the (non-charitable) subsidiary Retail Trading Co.

Balance sheet–current assets

The only debtor is the subsidiary company stock and cash of £974.

Bank balances follow the Trust's Reserves Policy as "restricted", "designated" and "unrestricted", such funds being held for purchase of Land and Property, Plant and Restoration work, and administration whereby Trust Directors consider the need to build up funds for projected expenditure. Payments of £35,280 due for planned invoices from the Social Investment Business Group grant awarded for Summerhill in 2015 remain in reserve pending planning decisions on Department for Transport land surrounding the M6Toll aqueduct. The ongoing David Suchet Tunnel Vision Appeal has raised a gross income of £613,000 before related costs, well short of £1,000,000 target set by SCC in 2016 but still serves as a measure for match funding needed towards grants for the much higher anticipated cost of those proposed works under the Cross-City railway line.

Balance sheet–liabilities

Reserved funds of £35,280 remain available from the SIB grant for outstanding planned work on the Summerhill section. The Charity Bank mortgage loan, increased to £375,500 in 2018 repayable over 25 years secured by legal charges on Ogleby Cottages No.271 and 272, had reduced to £355,695, serving as an investment to attract further funding for the Lichfield Canal tunnel project noted above.

Income & expenditure account–income

Membership subscriptions and donations produced £12,882 (Trust + Marketing), supplemented with voluntary donations of £3,752 by 32% of members for which we

are always grateful. This makes the average amount of £15.23 per paying member, considered better than increasing the fees to all members and maybe falling short of this value. The average cost of servicing all members was £2.55 per head which was down to 21.6% of basic subscriptions.

Donations continued to flow into established funds as appeals ran their course with donors from home and abroad responding to global promotion on YouTube from 2019. A successful new initiative in April was the sponsored 20-20 Piling Appeal which raised nearly £22,000 with donors acknowledged by having specified names embossed on metal tags fixed on sections of piling.

Marketing and Retail suffered income reduction to nearly £15,000, (2019 £17,310 excluding Huddlesford event) due to Covid restrictions on events.

Income & expenditure account—expenditure

At Hatherton, £7,561 residual balance was paid to Stantec (UK) Ltd for their comprehensive Water Supply Study funded by a £10,000 Community Infrastructure Levy grant from Cannock Chase Council. Also donated by Cannock Chase Council is a 500m section of original canal including Lock 5 at Wedges Mills, south of the A5 by Bridgtown. The Trust is responsible for occasional maintenance and overseeing the approved drainage outfall to enter the Wyrley Brook which Severn Trent Water had diverted off their adjacent land into in this section after the canal had been abandonment.

The Lichfield Canal continues to be the main focus of restoration work where Trust and some visiting volunteer teams made substantial progress despite Covid-19 compulsory health restrictions. Structures at Fosseyway Heath came closer to completion and extended into the new diversion in “Zone A” beside Falkland Road donated by Staffordshire County Council. Some 85metres of new channel was excavated, lined with concrete, block walls and sponsored steel piling. By Tamworth Road, a revised City Council 40-year Lease allowed for extending Gallows Wharf at London Road through Gallows Reach towards Cricket Lane with provision for a footbridge over the canal to maintain the public connection with Longbridge Road. Both Ogle Cottages incurred maintenance costs, retaining satisfactory tenants managed by two separate local Letting Agents.

Labour, Management and administration costs were underpinned by unstinting personal input from Directors, Officers and Volunteers. Extensive negotiations necessitating determined effort took place both “behind the scenes” and “on the ground” to defend the Trust’s position against bureaucratic developments with a variety of demanding planning issues and impact of construction works.

Conclusion

Dedicated application by Trust and visiting volunteer teams through difficult times still resulted in achievements producing vital changes for public benefit, evidenced by structured volunteer time records, converted by value to £655,144 for the year.

Bob Williams, (Finance Director)

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

MANAGEMENT BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 December 2020

				31 December 2019	
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Totals £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold Ogleby Cottages 271 & 272 (depreciated @ 2%pa)	OC	465,150			476,520
17 areas of freehold land at cost (not depreciated)		165,686			165,686
Plant & Machinery (over £1,000 per item, depreciated)		1,386			3,124
Investment in subsidiary company shares (+ assets below)		1,000		633,222	1,000
					646,330
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors					
Net assets available from subsidiary company (+ capital above)		974			1,287
Net Group VAT receivable / payable		0			0
(2019: SCC, LCC, Waitrose community grants debtors)		0		974	5,986
					7,273
Restricted funds on special deposit:					
Lichfield Canal, special funding + Brick Appeal			857		957
20-20 Piling Appeal Fund, net of expenditure			1,059		
Land & Property Fund (donated), net of expenditure	LF		9,226		1,013
Restoration & Plant Fund (donated), net of expenditure	RF	[	378]		188]
+ Page legacy for lock paddle gear	RF	[	2,756]		2,756]
+ Willey Lock naming fund	RF	[	1,500]		1,500]
David Suchet, Tunnel Vision Fund, gross income	TV	{	604,995 }		555,409 }
less tunnel design and funding fees		{	42,795 }		42,795 }
SIB "Summerhill" grant deferred expenditure	SIB		35,280	613,256	37,465
					556,493
Designated funds on deposit:					
David Suchet, Tunnel Vision Fund	TV	8,000			2,014
Land & Property Fund (Trust allocation)	LF	1,322			725
Cannock Council - Hatherton Canal Water Supply Study balance		1,134			8,695
Severn Trent Water; fish replacement		5,000			
Restoration & Plant Fund, (Trust allocation)	RF	1,000			1,000
Restoration Fund; Site budget balance		199			36
500 Club Capital Fund (50% of income in the year)		1,644		18,299	1,578
					14,048
Unrestricted funds:					
Trust funds for general purposes		974		974	274
					274
Other bank accounts					
Unity Trust Bank, Trust current a/c		7,254			1,373
Funds in hand or in course of collection		0		7,254	1,373
Unity Trust Bank, Marketing current a/c and in hand		426		426	594
Total assets before liabilities		661,149	613,256	1,274,405	1,226,385
LIABILITIES:					
SIB grant payments reserve	SIB		-35,280	-35,280	-37,465
Loan reduction falling due within one year					
The Charity Bank Ltd; Mortgage loan on Ogleby Cottage	OC	-9,945			-8,760
Loan outstanding after one year					
The Charity Bank Ltd; Mortgage loan on Ogleby Cottage	OC	-345,750		-355,695	-356,216
					-364,976
TOTAL NET RESOURCES		305,454	577,976	£883,430	£823,944
RESERVES:					
		Unrestricted	Restricted		
Income & Expenditure Account				£883,430	£823,944
NOTES:					
STW - CRT fish supply to be acquired		-5,000			(8,694.61)
(2019 Stantec Ltd, Cannock Water Supply Study payable in 2020)					
Retail Trading Co. O/A at Unity Trust Bank & due				£398	£851
Retail Trading Co. Stock of goods for sale (at cost)				£1,576	£1,441
Cumulative Trust Expenditure from start in 1990 to 2020.				£3,753,034	£3,516,861
including 12 areas of donated land or canal structures built by or for L&H not having realisable value.				£2,413,963	£2,390,963
Notional value of donated management and labour time				£655,144	£460,485

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED

MANAGEMENT INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	2020			2019	
INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	Totals	£	£
Subscriptions from members (excl. Marketing below)	M 9,908		9,908		8,374
Donations	M Trust + Mktg - cost 7,749			Trust + Mktg - cost 5,969	
Received with subscriptions	+ 3,752	11,501		4,188	10,157
Other (excl. Marketing collections below)	7,613		11,365	6,127	10,315
Income generated by Marketing and Retail Trading					
Trust & Public events	76			12,418	
Membership subscriptions via social media	M 2,974			2,880	
500 Club Capital Fund (net of prizes paid out)	1,698			1,662	
Grand Prize Draw	4,496			7,854	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements & Trust collections	4,637			9,395	
Brick Appeal		100		420	
Net profit from Retail Trading subsidiary company	P 996		14,977	1,286	35,915
Rent, tax, interest, etc.	Mktg + Retail - cost 12,829			net profit 28,872	
Ogley Cottages rent	OC 17,745			15,349	
Gift Aid tax reclaim (other than specific Funds)	3,857			4,204	
Bank credit interest	1,458			2,500	
Wayleave for electricity line pole at Damford	13		23,073	13	22,066
SUB-TOTAL REGULAR INCOME			59,323		76,670
Specific Appeals and Grants					
Land & Property Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		1,024		1,013	
Restoration & Plant Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)	5,382	37,307		21,440	
David Suchet -> Tunnel Vision Fund (inc. Gift Aid tax)		49,585		54,553	
20-20 Piling Appeal (inc. Gift Aid tax)		21,977			
Special income: Severn Trent fish; City Council CIL; SSW 'Pebble'		14,674		16,000	
(2019: SCC, LCC, Waitrose community grants debtors)			129,949	5,986	98,992
TOTAL INCOME	in 64,605	124,667	189,272		175,662
EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted	Restricted			
Restoration costs					
Lichfield Canal; Summerhill (SIB grant adjustment)	0			0	
Tamworth Road; Gallows Wharf/Reach (non LCC CIL in 112)	6,492	5,000		1,713	
Fosseway Heath & Falkland Road	17,924	15,000		36,889	
Hatherton Canal - Stantec Water Supply Study		7,561		1,304	
Volunteer welfare; H&S	3,482			4,033	
Tools, Plant, Machinery, Training	9,686		-65,145	11,249	-55,188
Administrative costs					
Professional fees and costs (2019 inc. CAJA Lottery bid fee)	12,326			17,858	
(2019 Covid Legal Fund re LDC planning)				-13,153	
Ogley Cottages costs (incl. nominal Insurance)	OC 3,364		(C-1 ratio 19.0%)	9,869	(64.3%)
Membership and magazine administration	M 5,133		(C-1 ratio 39.8%)	5,285	(47.0%)
Direct cost of Marketing activity (ex 500 Club prizes)	P 2,148		(C-1 ratio 14.3%)	7,043	(19.6%)
Direct cost of Funding Appeals (Lottery bid fee to CAJA Ltd 2019)	0			15,000	
General administration	1,435			2,596	
Insurance premium (ex Ogley Cottages - nominal)	3,314		(27,720)	4,138	(48,636)
Project costs, grant funded					
LCC Gallows Reach in City Council CIL Levy grant	8,213				
			(8,213)		0.00
Surplus before interest & depreciation			88,194		71,838
Finance charge					
Interest paid on Charity Bank loan in Tunnel Vision Fund	14,600		-14,600		-16,630
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	out -88,117	-27,561		-120,454	
NET FUNDS MOVEMENT ON TRUST ACTIVITIES	-23,512	97,106	73,594		55,208
less Depreciation of property and plant			-14,108		-16,024
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			59,486		39,184
Retained Surplus brought forward			823,944		784,760
Retained Surplus carried forward			£883,430		£823,944

Cancellation of all public events in the wake of Covid-19 became a rest period from the annual revising and devising of display materials and sales stock to take to the usual season shows. However, modern communications have enabled us to promote ourselves in other ways, bringing an increase in membership, donations and product sales, many responding to seeing our restoration progress in person or through our social media outlets.

Take a look at this link to our online shop:

<https://lhcr.org.uk/shop/>

David Suchet Tunnel Vision Appeal

It is very pleasing that development by Persimmon Homes of St John's Grange housing estate off the Lichfield Southern Bypass has included some parallel canal infrastructure. This leads towards the site of the eastern portal from where the canal has to be driven through the railway embankment to connect with the existing culvert under Birmingham Road on the west side. Whilst those works are in progress, the Trust has more time to attract the required funding.

Donor support is greatly appreciated from home and abroad. Please visit:

<https://lhcr.org.uk/tunnel-vision.html>

20-20 Vision Piling Appeal

"Just around the corner" from the railway tunnel site, there is another major step forward! Staffordshire County Council has made available the next section for the canal diversion alongside Falkland Road. Containing the channel in the restricted width reserved for the canal calls for more steel sheet piling. From a year ago, response to our Piling Appeal has been remarkable with an income over £25,000 towards the cost of materials. Now there are more opportunities to have sponsored piles at Falkland Road, or at Tamworth Road according to personal preference.

We thank everyone who has donated to this Appeal, acknowledged by an embossed metal tag with their chosen inscription to be permanently fixed to the piling. These are now listed on the Piling page in our website with photos being added as the tags are fitted.

To submit your donation and personal tag name, visit our website at...

<https://www.lhcr.org.uk/2020piling.html>

Other funding

Our revised National Lottery Heritage Fund Expression of Interest for £4.95million was submitted in March aimed at "Closing the Gap" in the 2km section between Cricket Lane and Fossey Lane. So much has already been done in that area, by ourselves and by external contractors, but several expensive structures will be needed along there.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

We constantly look for new sources of funding and recently had one for £10,000 declined, but have two others in preparation at present for more than £20,000. HS2 has a funding scheme we are courting for £75,000.

Gift Aid Tax

At this time of the year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer revises taxation terms. For some people, a higher Personal Allowance may mean not having to pay Income or Capital Gains Tax which can affect the validity of a Gift Aid declaration that we already hold. If this applies to you, please let us know to avoid the Trust making any false tax recovery claims. Contact details for the Finance Director are on Page 30 of this issue. Just a phone call will do.

Legacies

Despite sad circumstances, we occasionally receive donations which are greatly appreciated in memory of past relatives and friends who had a special affection for the canals.

By including a charitable bequest to our Trust in a will, it ensures that the deceased's wish is observed. We can provide necessary details required by Solicitors through any of the contacts shown on page 30 of this issue.

Bob Williams, (Finance Director)

GRAND PRIZE DRAW – 2021

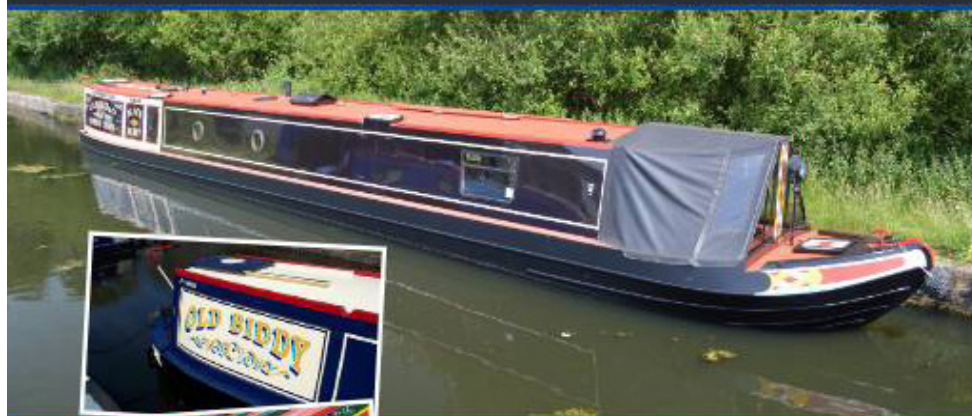
00001		Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust	00001
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust		Grand Prize Draw	Tickets £2 each
Name _____	Printed by StubbsTickets.com	To be drawn at Gallows Wharf on 30/10/2021 at 10am	
Address _____		1st Prize: £750 cash	
_____		2nd Prize: £250 cash for something special	
_____		3rd Prize: £50 cash for you to enjoy	
Tel _____		and many other prizes!	
Please return counterfoils, payment and unsold tickets by 23/10/2021		Registered under the Gambling Act 2005, Licence: Lichfield District Council Licence No. 07/00593/GASSLO. Promoter: C.M. Howles, 22 Woodfields Drive, Lichfield, WS14 9HH. Reg Charly No. 702429 Tickets are not transferable and may not be purchased by persons under 16 years of age.	

You should have received your Grand Prize Draw tickets with the last edition. If you haven't received yours, they can be ordered online:

<https://lhcr.org.uk/shop/home/59-prize-draw.html>

or contact Christine Howles on 07852 190855.

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We are always in need of volunteers in the following areas: finance, engineering, legal work, planning work, project management and H&S.

Can you spare a few hours a week, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Christine Howles 07852 190855
or volunteering@lhcr.org.uk

Our Vision

To reinstate the historic Lichfield Canal and Hatherton Canal
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
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NOTES: Single edition advert @ 50% annual rate.

Two edition advert @ 75% annual rate.

If you have received this magazine and you are not a member please consider joining the Trust. For more details contact the Membership Secretary (details on Page 30)

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

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED.

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** Sir David Suchet CBE.

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

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Proposed Route

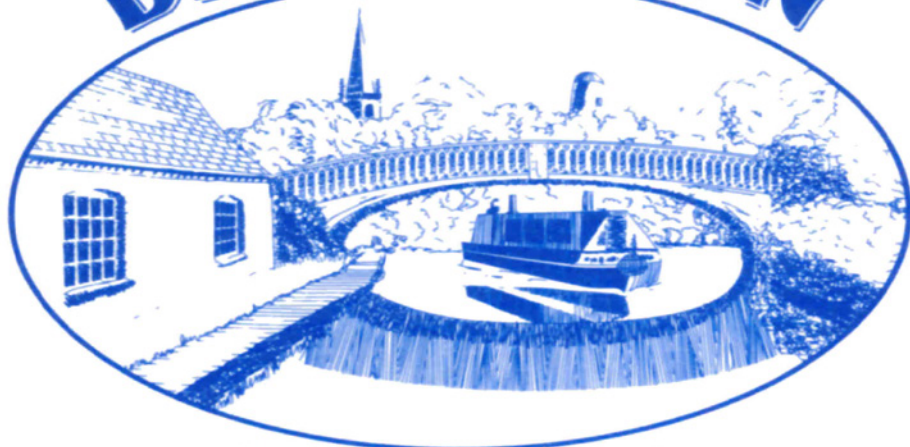
Original Route Variation

Operational Canal

Section currently under restoration



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