

CUT BOTH WAYS

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust



Creating the blue-green corridor at Falkland Road,
see pages 16 and 17

Issue No. 110
Winter 2021/22



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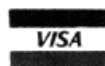
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I sincerely hope that as a nation we are now about to resume our pre COVID lives. That said, LHCRT has survived the necessary strictures rather better than any of us would have thought almost two years ago as lockdowns, etc began.

Despite not being able to hold our usual fundraising events our amazing Marketing and Communications teams, with their creativity, tenacity and sheer hard work have ensured that 2021 revenues exceeded previous figures, and more details will be reported elsewhere in this edition.



My personal opinion is that the last few months have seen more very publicly visible results of our efforts than maybe ever before: the clearly evident canal channel adjacent to the extended bypass; the removal of the admittedly unsightly soil heap along Tamworth Road; the bund that will naturally prevent encroachment, with a natural rather than harsh barrier, along the new line of the canal along Falkland Road and its subsequent biodiversity enhancing planting.

All of these huge advances are reported elsewhere in this edition, but it is worth my stressing that the huge soil move from Tamworth Road to Fosseway took place in the few days immediately after Christmas, which necessitated much pre-Christmas planning and organising as well as very many hours on each of those few frantic days. Team members were out at daybreak and still working as dark fell. What volunteers we have!

Still on the amazing achievements: anyone who has walked regularly along Tamworth Road will know just how enormously the landscape around old Lock 24 has changed in the last few months. This has resulted from extremely clever civil engineering calculations by Peter B (assisted more recently by Paul B) and then dogged hard work by so many volunteers in all sorts of weather. Almost all the bricks removed from the old Lock have been, or will be recycled in one way or another.

Apart from the work of our regular volunteers, we have benefitted from more survey work by other Seasalt employees. The first session was reported in the last edition of CBW and since then a further 3 sessions have been conducted by 6 more Seasalt staff. We have yet to fully analyse the results, but for sure they are impressively positive and have also resulted in new members and new volunteers.

COVID restrictions also curtailed ad hoc sessions by 7th Lichfield Scout Group, but we were delighted to host 2 sessions of help from them. At the end of October its Somers Cub Scout Pack enjoyed digging out and stacking bricks and half bricks from the heap of soil by Cricket Lane and also testing out the Missing Words Quiz devised by Stuart Sampson to ensure reading of his "Wishful Thinking" posters along the restoration route in Lichfield. We need to do more work on getting this ready

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

to be out online. If anyone wants to do so please let me know! The Scouts turned out for a day in mid November to weed the saplings along the top of the newly dug channel from The 'Oss up towards Fossey Lane.

After a gap of almost 2 years of having construction students undertaking work experience with us we have agreed in outline with South Staffordshire College to have its learners back with us later this year.

Before moving to external relations and activities I will conclude with more on our volunteers, but now the events which are organised and which hopefully reinforce the feeling of belonging to the LHCRT Volunteer Family. First, and after a COVID forced gap last year, Big Brian yet again organised a superb Christmas dinner evening at Darnford Moors Golf Club on 2 December. As on previous occasions we enjoyed good food and excellent company, and we were delighted that Carmel Sweeney and Chasetown Civil Engineering key staff joined us, too, as the late Noel Sweeney had done. As ever, the Trust enormously values the link with this business.



I to r: Michael Fabricant MP (Lichfield, Con.) LHCRT Patron; Peter Buck, LHCRT Engineering Director; Jeanne Buck; Christine Bull, LHCRT Chair of Trustees
Chris Coburn, LHCRT Patron, handing two £1,000 donations from himself and benefactor Richard Ward of Kew to Bob Williams, LHCRT Finance Director;
Patron's lunch at The Owl, Lichfield, 17th December 2021.

It also greatly values the support of its volunteer Patrons, and 17 December was an occasion when 2 of the 3 Patrons, Chris Coburn. MBE and Michael Fabricant, MP met for the first time, despite their respective long-standing patronages of LHCRT. Several of us enjoyed a lunch at The Owl where Bob received 2 cheques as explained in the caption to the picture, and then gave Chris and Michael a quick tour round the Lichfield sites. Our very sincere thanks to Chris and to Richard for their generosity and ongoing interest.

For our regular volunteers, on December 18th we assembled by Pound 27, with fires, shelters, carol sheets, mulled wine and refreshments donated by Hunnypot Cottage and others for a rousing Carol concert. There was a superb ambience; thanks to all who organised the event and donated refreshments.

On external relationships, we were honoured to be included in the "grand opening" ceremony of the bypass extension on 15 October. Any drive down it will show the new canal channel running parallel to the road; the 2 bridges built by Persimmon are less evident but they are there to be uncovered when we have finalised the canal channel. Behind all that has been years of very knowledgeable negotiations and exacting technical exchanges by Peter Buck and Derek Lord in particular, which, while not without their sticking points, have resulted not only in the canal channel but superb relations with both Persimmon and Ameys, the County Council's civil engineering contractor. Much more to come regarding developments along what's now known as St John's Grange. What a shame that other developers do not see the bigger view....!

Early in December Peter and I met with representatives of Sustrans to explore how our Fosseyway site could be the cycle route between Fosseyway Lane and Falkland Road in its intended cycle route from Brownhills to Lichfield. Its initial plan was to create a cycle track along the disused railway, but if we can agree appropriate route and financial support wait and see! We certainly won't be putting our funding into so doing.

Finally, at the instigation and financial support of a new resident of Lichfield who has also become a member and volunteer, we heard about the Cathedral's Christmas Tree festival. Amanda footed the bill for the tree and ensured that our leaflets were topped up throughout the display period. While not a fundraising venture for us, and we didn't win the Charity section of the competition for the best tree we did pick up some new members, and the clever decorations made by Paul and Bev Marshall and others donated by Aileen and Hilary and the model narrow boat from Bob for which Bev made a miniature Herkenrode Glass crate the tree was, in my [prejudiced!] view wonderful. Bev also made a framed small poster explaining that the Herkenrode Glass in the Cathedral came from Belgium by boat all the way to Gallows Wharf! I guess there are quite a few readers for whom that is new knowledge!

Chris Bull, (Chairperson)

Copy Date for the next issue is 4th April.

Donations to the Trust: 1st October to 31st December 2021

Donations during this period from individuals and groups, plus ancillary items, totalled £18,981 including dedicated Appeals 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.
- Neil's Tyres Ltd, plant maintenance support.
- Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd, use of plant.
- Steven Webster, plant maintenance and use of privately owned equipment.

Other activities:-

- Lichfield City Council project management support.
- Persimmon Homes (West Midlands) Ltd planning and construction support at the new St John's Grange estate in conjunction with road contractor AMEY for Staffordshire County Council providing ancillary canal work by the new Lichfield Southern Bypass.

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

- Canal restoration, plant maintenance and repair.
- Marketing and Retail Trading fundraising support to the Trust.
- "Green and Grounds" Team, planting and vegetation control.
- Maintenance of Heritage Towpath Trail for public benefit.

**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@lhcr.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Total at **31st December 2021** :- 2,293
(Comprising 426 Adult, 1144 Family, 452 Retired, 259 Life,
2 junior, 5 businesses and 5 groups)

Welcome and thank you to the 99 new members who joined during 1 October to 31 December. The following are the members who gave us permission to publish their names:

Welcome to New Members – 1st October to 31st December 2021

Habart, Lichfield	Bowen, Rugeley	Sadler, Elmhurst, Lichfield
Finn, Burntwood	Harding, Gilwern, Wales	Passmore, Sutton Coldfield
Buckner, Lichfield	Foley, Newport, Wales	Passmore, Sutton Coldfield
Deeley, Lichfield	Garbett, Walsall	Bardell, Tamworth
Arlidge, Uxbridge	Humphrey, Lichfield	Lindsey, Lichfield
Roles, Rugeley	Hindley, Burntwood	Peake, Lichfield
Clark, Lichfield	Blick, Lichfield	Pinner, Wellington
Wiles, Whittington	Reynolds, Cannock	Hercock, Monmouth
Smith, Lichfield	Spencer, Lichfield	Neale, Lichfield
Humble, Lichfield	Spencer, Lichfield	Jones, Sale
Jackson, Lichfield	North, Hale, Fordingbridge	Husar, Stafford
Yates, London	Baird, Lichfield	Hunnypot Cottage Bakery
Hill, Lichfield	Conway, Burton upon Trent	Mercia Food Hub
Lightwood, Pelsall	Jameson, Cambridge	Deere, Lichfield
Hill, Brownhills	Neale, Ipswich	Cooper, Birmingham
Whitfield, London	Raymond, Wolverhampton	Leake, Tadley, Hampshire
Emery, Bideford	Tibbetts, Coventry	Holbrok, Tennant Creek,
Power, Lichfield	McCormack, Pelsall	Australia
Lally, Northampton	Smith, Burntwood	

What a brilliant number of people we've had join us this quarter, as a comparison we had 38 in the previous quarter. This increase is partly due to some promotions we've successfully posted on Facebook and Twitter, which have encouraged more of you to join. As a result, it doesn't give me much space on the page for an update. But I would like to draw your attention to our new business members; Hunnypot Cottage Bakery and Mercia Food Hub, you can find out more about them on page 25. Hunnypot Cottage Bakery has been a regular at Huddlesford Heritage Gathering for the last few years, selling delicious artisan breads and bakes. I particularly enjoyed the Marmite one. She has also supported us at our Christmas carols evening for the last few years, supplying free festive bakes. Mercia Food Hub is a new friend to the Trust but has a history of supporting charities, including supplying a prize for the Lichfield Community lottery. Please check out our other business members too, you can find them on page 28.

Thanks again and see you next time!

Christine Hawles, (Membership Secretary)

"500 CLUB" Capital Fund

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.

294 subscribing members were eligible to share £441.00 in the December draw. This was created by a random electronic selection during a Trust meeting and invigilated independently.

So please spread the word.

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

First prize	£ 229.32	No 99	Hodgson, Stafford.
Second prize	£ 149.94	No 1	Smith, Whittington, Lichfield.
Third prize	£ 61.74	No 8	Marshall, Rugeley, Staffs.

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

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.

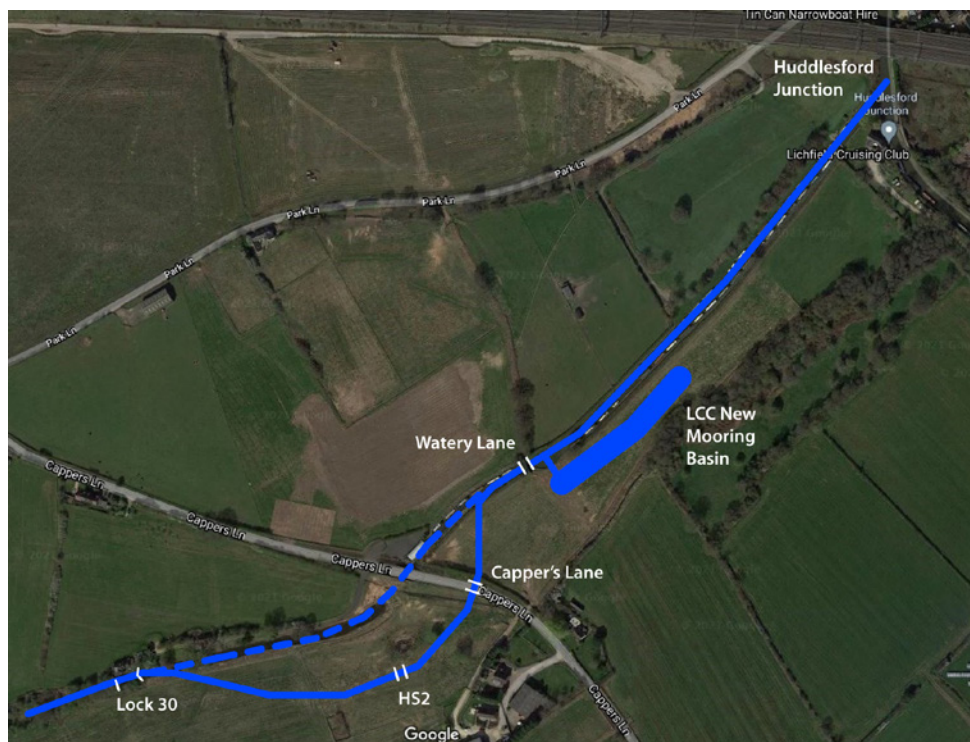
If you live in the Lichfield Parliamentary constituency, and you require assistance and think your MP can help, you can either write to Michael Fabricant at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA; or you can email him by using the webform at **www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk/contact.html** or telephone his office at 01543 419650 where you can also make an appointment to see him at one of his regular surgeries.

(advertisement)

RESTORATION: HUDDLESFORD TO FOSSEWAY LANE (PART 1)

As we enter the new year Duncan Moore asked LHCRT engineering director Peter Buck about what is needed to complete the restoration of the Lichfield Canal from Huddlesford through to Fosseway Lane.

1. Huddlesford



The first length of canal from the junction at Huddlesford as far as Cappers Lane is in water and used for moorings for about 70 boats by the Lichfield Cruising Club. This length includes the only surviving brick arch bridge on the Lichfield Canal, Watery Lane Bridge. However, the peace of this rural stretch running through fields is about to be shattered by the arrival of the HS2 High Speed Rail Line.

As part of the construction of HS2 a new mooring basin is currently being dug on the south side of the channel which will accommodate about 20 boats. To open up this length for public cruising, that basin will have to be considerably enlarged by the Trust to accommodate the remaining boats.

Beyond Watery Lane Bridge stands the rebuilt Cappers Bridge. Sadly this structure will never see the passage of a boat as this is where HS2 will cut across the canal. The Trust has successfully negotiated that HS2 will divert the canal in a gentle loop to the South of its current line. A third Capper's Lane Bridge will be built before the

new channel passes under the HS2 viaduct, re-joining the original line just below the bottom lock, Lock 30. This work will be carried out by HS2 in the next couple of years.

The Trust has purchased the line of the canal from here onwards, including Lock 30, but agreement will need to be reached with neighbouring land owners before this section can be reopened. It may be necessary to resite Lock 30 slightly above its current location towards the new lift bridge.

2. Darnford



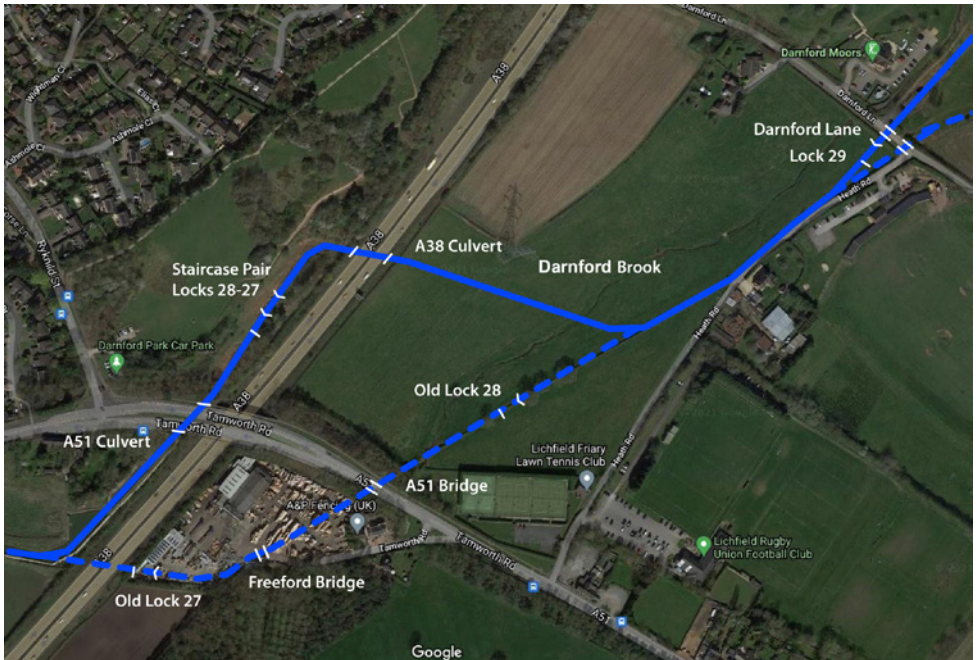
The next section has seen considerable work from the Trust in the past, including the reinstatement of the Darnford Brook culvert, installation of the new lift bridge, and excavation of a new channel from just below old Lock 29 to Darnford Lane. Further work will be required on this length to adjust the levels and profile of the new channel, with further work to strengthen the piling.

The old bridge at Darnford Lane sat right on the junction with Heath Lane. The new bridge will be located slightly to the NW of the old bridge and at a lower level since the old Lock 29 will not be used. The concrete sections from which the new culvert will be formed are already on site waiting to be installed under the roadway.

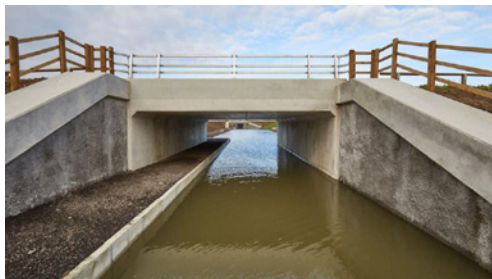


Beyond the road crossing will be a new Lock 29 which will return the canal to its original level and allow it to re-join its original course for about 100m alongside Heath Lane. Further challenges on this length are that Darnford Brook is environmentally sensitive and there is a very narrow corridor for the new crossing, channel and associated earthworks.

3. Freeford



Beyond that heathland, the canal will again leave its original course and turn to the West just before old Lock 28. This new route will bypass the two former bridges at Freeford, old locks 28 and 27 and the A38 crossing. The new alignment will have to cross Darnford Brook, either with a syphon or the brook flowing through the canal. This will require negotiation with the Environment Agency and present the opportunity for creation of new wetlands. Once again, the Trust will need to identify a solution which is also acceptable to local land owners. The canal will then pass under the A38 in a new box culvert. Whilst this is a major financial challenge for the Trust, it should be remembered that the Cotswold Canal Trust has very recently overcome a similar obstacle to restoration on the A38 many miles to the south. The culvert needs to be aligned to ensure there isn't too sharp a turn as the canal emerges on the North side of the road.



The new line will then rise through a staircase pair of locks before a new box culvert under the A51. These locks may employ a back pump to reduce water consumption. Some excavation has already been carried out by the Trust in this area. The A38 marks a transition for the canal from open farmland to the rapidly expanding outskirts of the city of Lichfield.

Duncan Moore

HAPPY TALE “FROM ACROSS THE POND!”



Our regular readers may recall the goodwill message from Sarah and Aaron in Pennsylvania USA, published on page 5 of edition 105 in response to having their sponsored names engraved on our steel piling in Lichfield just for fun.

They were happily married on 14th November 2021 which they were pleased to discover is Prince Charles' birthday over here to add to their memories!

But look closely at the wedding photo: the happy couple found a moment to publicise L&H in their special way and hope one day to visit the UK to find their original piling tag “SARAH LOVES AARON”, followed by one with “COME WHAT MAY - A+S”.

Ahhh, isn't that a nice tale from USA!

Bob Williams, (Finance Director)

CAROLS BY THE CUT

After COVID prevented us holding our Christmas Carols evening in 2020, it was so nice to meet up by the canalside for a festive sing-a-long.

We chose Borrowcop Locks as the location for 2021, with our works compound base there, we had more mod cons for heating mulled wine and lighting the proceedings.

Attendees were asked to bring a bottle of mulled wine and we provided mince pies. We also had fabulous festive treats, including stollen, provided by Hunnypot Cottage Bakery, one of our new business members, and the refreshments nicely fuelled our singing voices.



Everyone in festive spirit



Aileen serving the festive goodies from Hunnypot Cottage Bakery

Many thanks to Steve Webster and his team for setting up the area with gazebos, power and kitchen facilities, to Alfie Lee for providing the lighting, to Stuart Sampson for the Christmas lights, to Ruth from Hunnypot Cottage Bakery and all our volunteers who helped during the night. Finally, a huge thank you to Cliff Bull for leading the singing.

We'll be back for more in 2022.

BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who so quickly, and so generously, donated to our “Big Give Christmas Challenge” appeal.

We were amazed and humbled that you helped us to meet our match funding target within the first hour of go live. We had seven days to reach that target and were hopeful that we would achieve it, but to do so that quickly was simply astounding. So thank you!

Sadly, we could not increase that target as it was set in line with the pledges we received when we first applied for the Big Give campaign earlier this year. This meant that although donations through Big Give were still hugely valued, they can no longer be doubled.

Here's a reminder of how the Big Give worked

1. In the summer of 2021, we asked for pledges of minimum of £100. We received fifteen pledges totalling £3,500.

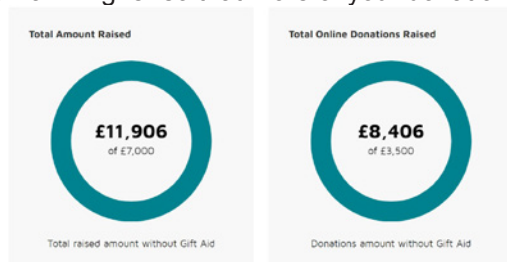
2. We applied for additional pledges through the Big Give Champions scheme, these are people who have already agreed to support a Big Give campaign and choose which one to support from all the submissions. Unfortunately, we were not successful in our application for champion funding, so the amount we could double remained at £3,500.

3. The appeal went live in December and we had to receive £3,500 in donations, which would then be doubled by the pledges received. (If we received less than £3,500 we would not receive all of the pledges.)

How did we do?

In total, we received £8,406 in donations, meaning the appeal raised £11,906 and adding Gift Aid to that and deducting the Big Give fees, the grand total we received was £13,580.64. On top of that, once we'd reached the target some of you donated to our other appeals, including Tunnel Vision and out general restoration funds. So all in all it was a wonderful Christmas!

Thank you again for your amazing support, we are now in the process of spending the money and we'll give you a further update on how it's progressing in a future edition. We are considering running the Christmas Challenge again next year and perhaps we'll aim higher so that more of your donations will be doubled.



*Christine Howles,
(Events and Communications)*

In 2021 and now 2022 Falkland Road has mainly been about hedging. With no canal-building happening in this area we certainly haven't let the grass grow under our feet – literally!

Falkland Road was the first part of the Lichfield Southern bypass to be built and the new, diverted route of the canal was allowed for, in the shape of a large grass verge between the side of the road and the land, which is now part of the Taylor Wimpy estate.



A busy day of bund building and hedge planting

were donated by Jane and Brian Taylor, through a collection for their Golden Wedding anniversary (Brian sadly passed away in 2021).

Local u3a members, provided funds for another fifteen trees to celebrate the u3a 40th anniversary, and we were able to transplant 22 quite mature silver birch tree saplings, which had self-seeded elsewhere along the canal route. If we do need any more hedging or trees, we will be able to get those through money from the Big Give Christmas Challenge



u3a members planting the trees they provided

Of course, the work to make this happen was carried out by our wonderful volunteers, who firstly created a turf bund and have been planting, from Fosseyway Heath all along Falkland Road. In fact, we are now fast approaching the site of the Birmingham Road Tunnel.

Over two weekends in January, our volunteers planted over 80 metres of mixed hedge which will grow into an important secure boundary to the canal along Falkland Road, provide a significant traffic noise barrier and the hedge will develop into a very important 500m plus linear wildlife reserve along the route of the Lichfield Canal.

EN (AND EVENTUALLY BLUE) CORRIDOR

Once the trees and the hedgerow on the turf bund have been completed then the first stages of the canal restoration work can be started within the secure site.

Thank you to all our volunteers who work so hard to keep the canal restoration work forging ahead and all our friends who make it possible with gifts, loans of essential equipment and sponsorship.



Did you know?

In 2021 we planted over 60 native trees of at least 1.5m height and we planted 1,000 hedging saplings. This brings the total hedging saplings planted, and subsequently carefully tended, in the last 5 years to over 5,000.

EVENTS

Are things getting safer for events? We hope so and are starting to plan some dates. Here's what we have so far but watch this space and our website as things may change. www.lhcrt.org.uk/news/events.html

Date	Event
5th March	Quiz night
To book go to: www.lhcrt.org.uk/news/events.html or ring 01543 671427.	
16th April (to be confirmed)	Eric and Doreen's all day Easter coffee morning
2nd-5th June	Crick Show
25th-26th June	Braunston Historic Boat Rally
20th-21st August	Brownhills Canal Festival
27th-29th August	IWA Festival of Water Burton
September (to be confirmed)	Huddlesford Heritage Gathering
November (to be confirmed)	Autumn Show
17th December	Christmas Carols evening

DECEMBER WORK PARTY

It has been an extremely wet December and consequently there hasn't been much progress at the Tamworth Road Narrows, only the most hardiest of volunteers has dared venture onto this site.

There has however been work carried out at three other worksites during the early part of December, as well as Bill Breresford's work at Wood Lock 18, and you only need to look at these photos taken a year apart to see the progress made.



Fosseway



Firstly, there was a fairly considerable tidy up at Fosseway. The area between the canal and the former railway has been used for storage of a wide range of products and materials over recent years. It was probably considered out of sight and therefore out of mind but its not until you see the area using GPS mapping software such as <https://w3w.co/successes.animal.tens> that you visualise just how untidy the area had actually become. It is far cleaner now because we have tidied it in readiness to receive spoil from an adjacent site that was due to be transported over the Christmas break period.

Tamworth Road (between Fishface and Cricket Lane)

A lay-by needed to be constructed on Tamworth Road at <https://w3w.co/friend.aware.pumps> in order to remove the spoil from the previously excavated Gallows Wharf (London Bridge) to Gallows Reach section (that had been deposited along Tamworth Road—from Fishface bridge to Cricket Lane) and it would make sense to also reduce the ground level and try to dig out some of this next section if time over Christmas allowed.

In all there was in excess of 2,500 cubic metres of soil / spoil to remove so it wasn't possible to remove it all. There was also the dreaded pipe to contend with and this would further complicate the extraction. The first step however was to relocate some of the spoil either side of the lay-by in order to make it easier for the larger machines to load the trailers quickly.

Falkland Road

There can be very few benefits of excavating a canal channel and thence leaving the area cleared but not in water. However, one benefit occurred at Darnford in that it became an ideal place for pioneering silver birch seeds to blow into the recently cleared channel from the adjacent parkland and for trees to then self-seed. It was amazing how fast the trees took hold of their new ground, the channel bed seeming providing shelter from the worst of the elements and encouraging rapid growth.

In Autumn last year however, the trees had become a bit too large, they could not remain in the canal channel, but nor were they going to be wasted and therefore nearly two dozen of the largest were carefully dug out from the channel and relocated.

They are now on Falkland Road, planted at 10 metre intervals some 2 metres from the road and will hopefully provide a bit of 'interest' on an otherwise uninteresting perimeter bund wall.

The 22 silver birch trees would only have gotten us about a third of the way down this final section of Falkland Road, but luckily they weren't the only trees planted. A kind financial donation from Lichfield u3a, which is a UK-wide movement of locally run interest groups providing learning and leisure activities for retired people, meant that a further fifteen trees could be purchased from a local garden centre.

It felt a bit strange when we started constructing the bund along the final section of Falkland Road between Birmingham Road and Claypit Lane (an area we call Zone C). On the first section we were leaving gaps for the trees to be subsequently planted but on this section the trees were already in place and so we were constructing the bund wall either side of them.

It would have been a difficult job to strip the turves to a form the 600mm high and one metre wide bund but we hired a petrol driven turf cutter again and it made the job of cutting the turves a lot easier <https://w3w.co/saints.smile.shortcuts> They just then had to be cut to length, rolled up and placed on the bund wall.

There was some assistance from the DoE's on the first Saturday (Chris Bull posted picture) and by the end of the week before Christmas we had collectively managed to complete around 50 metres. Hedging whips will eventually be planted along the top of the bund. Peter was out on the Wednesday before Christmas and planted out the first 10 metres or so.



Duke of Edinburgh Award students
at Falkland Road

Michael Babb

A BARGEWARE TEAPOT HEIRLOOM

As a child I always liked the large Victorian bargeware teapot that was a prominent feature of our dining room. I was in a minority of one, more so because the lid had long since lost its miniature teapot finial. So it sat there universally unloved and broken, except for my unstinting support.



Kirsten and Jay Blades making the finial

I was particularly upset when the Teapot passed to my elder sister, Maureen, but only then did I learn its history and the tradition of these heirlooms passing down the female line. It's touching to think of the hardened boatmen stopping off at a factory showroom, such as Measham, and ordering a teapot for their mother, fiancée or wife. Looking through the catalogue they would choose the decoration and message, and arrange to collect the teapot when they next passed that way. These teapots were far too big to be housed in the working narrow boats, but took pride of place in their houses.

Ours had passed down 4 generations before I coveted it. Maureen passed it to our daughter, Alice, who would then pass it to her daughter, Lily.



The repaired Bargeware Teapot

Cruel tragedy struck however. Alice fell ill with lymphoma and spent months in hospital before passing away on 20th December 2016, leaving one year old Lily and Nick.



The Reveal with me, Nick, Lily and my wife, Jane

A BARGEWARE TEAPOT HEIRLOOM

Only a few weeks after Alice's death I heard about a new BBC series in which they repaired family heirlooms, The Repair Shop. I filled in the online form along with a couple of photographs and waited. It seemed a way to repair and soothe during a torrid time.



Alice, Lily and Teapot

Naturally, the focus was Alice's place in our lives, and her legacy. Suffice to say that taking part in the programme was a far more emotional experience than I had ever anticipated. But, on reflection, I am glad we went ahead, because we now have a repaired teapot, thanks to Kirsten Ramsey the programme's ceramicist, and a DVD of the programme for future posterity and as a link to our daughter, Alice. And as a lasting keepsake for Lily.

Andrew Simkins

PAUL PLAYS TAG



Paul Jewitt has been beavering away attaching the piling tags for all to see. Here he is at Gallows Reach, on a sunny but near freezing day, fixing another batch of tags.

He's fitted just over 200 so far and you can find your tag, or see them all, on our website

<https://www.lhcrt.org.uk/tagsearch.html>

Thanks Paul, and to Simon Clive for making the tags, and for the terrific support of all of you who have sponsored the tags! We've got more piling to install so you'll see even more tags on display in the future.

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.

2021 accounts

Subject to professional examination for presentation to the AGM being planned for June 2022, preliminary results from our accounts for or last year are:-

Total resources brought forward	£883,430	
Income	<u>£132,775</u>	(44% unrestricted)
	£1,016,205	
Expenditure	(£127,110)	(45% unrestricted)
Asset depreciation	<u>(£12,078)</u>	
Total resources carried forward	£877,017	

David Suchet Tunnel Vision Appeal

The final section of the Lichfield Southern Bypass was completed in October 2021 and opened to traffic past Persimmon Homes' new St John's Grange housing estate.



Their site work has taken the canal route closer to the location for the tunnel which will have to pass under the railway embankment here. This is an essential element in preserving the heritage value of the entire 7-mile length of the Lichfield Canal.

The Tunnel Vision Fund gross income has exceeded £600,000 towards the Trust's target of at least £1,000,000 in match funding.

Please continue to give your support which is greatly appreciated as match funding is needed to attract large grants for the tunnel.

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

Staffordshire County Council [SCC]

With thanks to SCC for donating the next long sections of land for the canal alongside Falkland Road, the completed Zone A can be extended through Zone B up to Claypit Lane. Zone C will follow to connect with the advance canal culvert which the Trust installed under the Birmingham Road roundabout as long ago as 2007, shown by the dashed blue line in the above picture.

Lichfield District Council [LDC]

In consideration of the above land deals, our bid to LDC for a grant of £260,000 from their Community Infrastructure Levy scheme from new housing developments is under their active consideration. The project aims to undertake canal construction

through Zone B to Zone C with Claypit Lane in between remaining as highways property pending plans for a canal bridge in due course.

If taken forward to a full application, the grant will enable the Trust to construct the canal corridor with a public greenway alongside serving as a community link between residential areas and the adjacent Fosseway Heath section. It will involve a substantial element of volunteer labour through the predicted 2-years in the 2022-2025 period when there may be calls for extra help to exercise your skills from time to time. Keep an eye on our social media platforms for any updates on progress with this big project.

20-20 Piling Vision Appeal popularity goes on

For permanent recognition, metal tags bearing donors' chosen inscriptions have been fixed on all the available piling at Falkland Road Zone A and partly along Tamworth Road section.



More steel sheet piling will be needed in parts of both of those sections with the Appeal target of £20.00 per named pile.

Please follow this link to our dedicated website for lots more information and to make donations with special tag names.

We recognise that not all members have easy access to online sites so if you need a more personal contact, please email or phone Bob

Williams as listed on page 30 of this edition for assistance.

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

Bob Williams, Director (Finance Director)

ANNOUNCEMENT



It is sad to lose any members, but especially those who have supported our Trust consistently from the very early days. Jerry Sanders who died on 4th November, aged 83, was perhaps better known for his dedication to the Inland Waterways Association, both locally and for many years as Commercial Director for IWA National Festivals. He was an enthusiastic boater and through his friendly approach, encouraged those around him to share that passion in promoting waterways for public benefit.

We have benefitted greatly in the last few months with funding of trees and hedging plants. A drive or walk along Falkland Road particularly has seen almost weekly extensions of new hedging on the bund and accent trees every few metres in the gaps. These have been funded by a combination of South Staffs PEBBLE Fund and a very generous donation from Lichfield's u3a of over £741.64 (£1 for each of its members) in celebration of u3a's 40th anniversary and continue the hedging and trees previously donated by the Taylors' Golden Wedding trees and Woodland Trust hedging whips.

The planting in recent months has been done by u3a members, our Grounds/Green and D of E teams and Peter and Jeanne Buck. Our Grounds/Green team have also checked and nurtured previously planted hedging whips. (see pages 16 and 17)

The number of D of E volunteers, as reported last time, continues to grow and I am less concerned about the leader/youngster ration than last time as we now have Jan and Nigel with us regularly both of whom are experienced with working with young people. We also tend to have a good number, usually including Peter Buck and Ossie Cutayar working with us. Even so, if anyone wants to lead a second DofE group please contact me! DofE hours for 2021 were 839, almost double the 430 of 2020.

Not all their time has been on Environment and Grounds work, as they have also cleaned, stacked, moved hundreds of over 220 year old bricks for recycling and used half bricks to add to retaining walls around old Lock 24 as well as creating new paths and planting areas.

Another autumn event which I get whichever D of Es who come in wellies to do is clearing bywashes of leaves! I am always amazed at how pristine they always seem, of their own volition, to be so committed to achieve! (They're equipped with Marigold gloves and careful safety briefing and good hand cleaning afterwards.)

Still on DofE volunteering: we have had the most amazing young man undertaking a bat survey along Tamworth Road for us between July and November. His father is an ecologist (Chase Ecology) and bat expert and young Owen presented us with a really professional report of 7 different species which are found between the A38/ Bobbie's Bend and Gallows Wharf. Furthermore, Chase Ecology has donated 5 bat boxes, which it will locate with us in appropriate places before the end of February.

Towards the end of 2021 Peter and I met with Lichfield District Council's (LDC's) Ecology team out on site at Fosseyway. I don't think they'll be embarrassed if I report their huge surprise at just how important are our biodiversity and environmental improvements. I am now excitingly awaiting contact from LDC's appointed consultancy, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, for discussion on how LHCRT can assist with its Nature Recovery Plan.

Hopefully, more very positive news next time!

Chris Bull, (Chairperson)

GRAND PRIZE DRAW – 2021

What a fabulous year for our Grand Prize Draw! Despite only starting events up about halfway through the year, the support was brilliant. Over 3,500 tickets were bought bringing the net income from ticket sales to £5,880. Thanks to everyone who bought ticket! The lucky winners were:-

1.	10933	£750 cash, Mrs Scott, Rotherham.
2.	04432	£250 cash, Mrs Whitfield, London.
3.	09601	£50 cash, Mr Roberts, Brownhills, Walsall.
4.	11334	£40 cash, Mr & Mrs Hardy, Dorchester, Dorset.
5.	09039	£35 cash, Mr Jones, Lichfield.
6.	03194	£30 cash, Mr Beddows, Burntwood, Staffs.
7.	01391	£25 cash, Mr Higgs, Pelsall, Walsall.
8.	12129	£20 cash, Ms Pearson, Burntwood, Staffs.

To comply with health regulations, the Draw made on 30th October 2021 was held outdoors at Gallows Wharf with independent adjudicators Mary and Jane, who had come along watch.

What about this year?

Tickets are now on sale for our 2022 draw this year, which we hope will raise even more funds and, of course, some more lucky winners.

Your tickets are included in this edition. Please return your payment and counterfoils to LHCRT, 22 Woodfields Drive, Lichfield, WS14 9HH.

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Name _____ Address _____ Tel _____ Please return counterfoils, payment and unsold tickets by 05/11/2022	 Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Grand Prize Draw To be drawn at Lichfield Canal site on Tamworth Road on 12/11/2022 at 10am Tickets £2 each 1st Prize: £750 cash 2nd Prize: £250 cash for something special 3rd Prize: £50 cash for you to enjoy and many other prizes. Reg Charity No. 102429 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 Tickets are not transferable and may not be purchased by persons under 16 years of age.
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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@lhcart.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
history, our heritage and our environment.

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All Correspondence should be addressed to :- Trust Secretary, via the Chairperson listed on page 30 pending a new appointment.

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.

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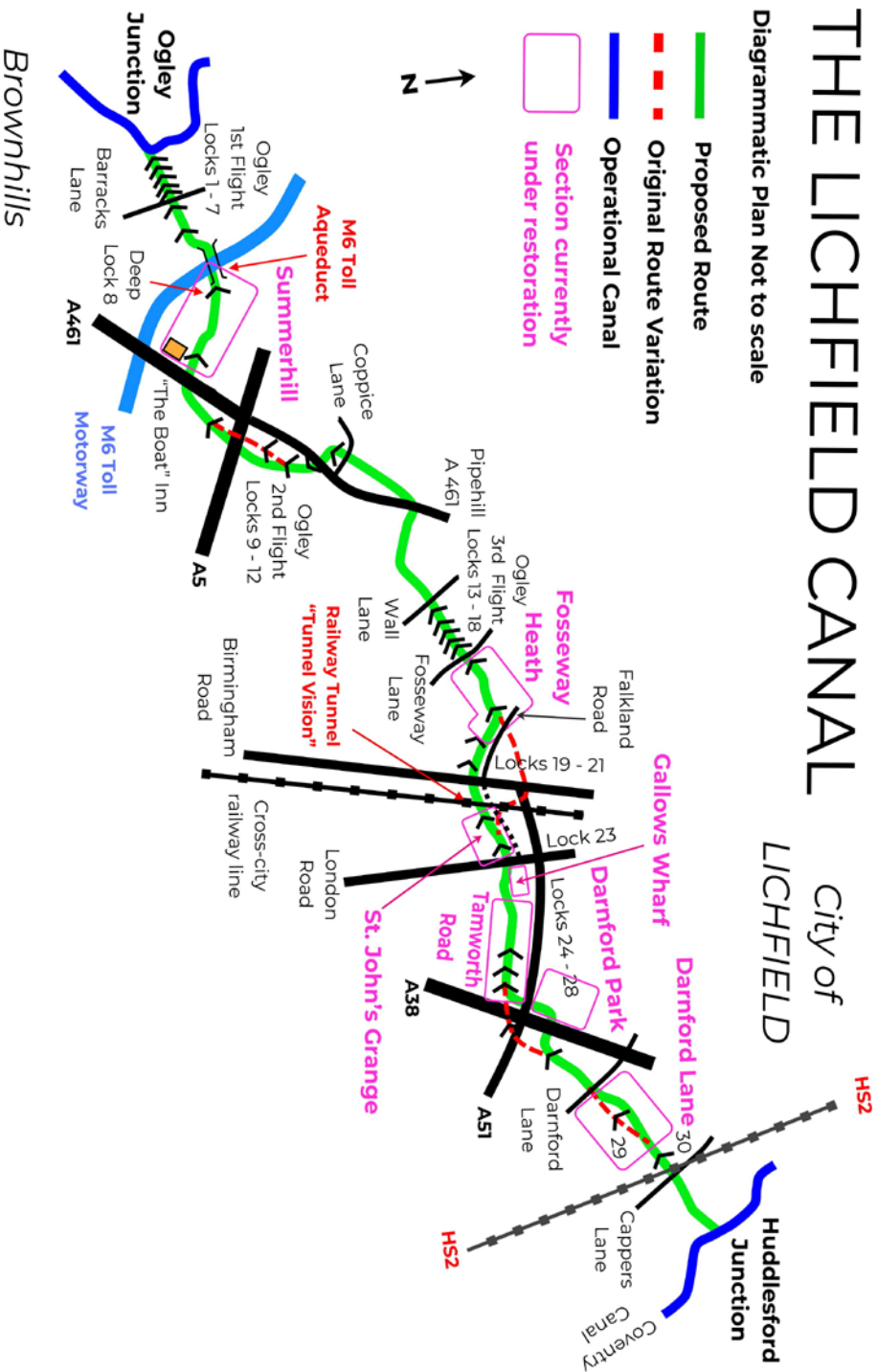
Diagrammatic Plan Not to scale

Proposed Route

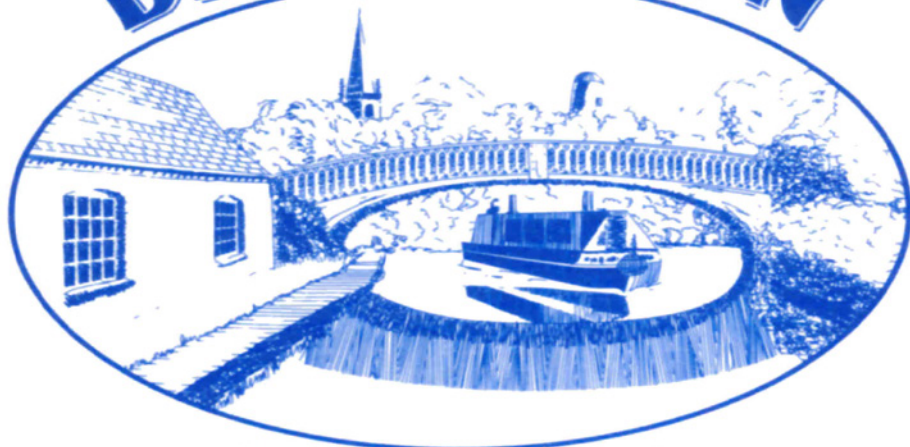
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