

CUT BOTH WAYS

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust



Timothy West and Prunella Scales present a cheque for £1000 to the Lichfield Canal donated by Tim Coghlan the Managing Director of Braunston Marina. (see Page 20)
Photo by Andrew Denny, Waterways World.

Issue No. 112
Summer 2022



STREETHAY WHARF LTD.

LICHFIELD

Heart of the Coventry Canal

TEL:01543 414808 MOBILE:0782 4848444

FAX:01543 414770

www.streethaywharf.co.uk

7-DAY CALL OUT SERVICE

GEN SETS FITTED

DIESEL AND SOLID FUEL STOVES FITTED

BOTTOM BLACKING

REPAINTING AND SIGNWRITING

NEW BOATS FULL & PART FIT-OUT SUPPLIED

ALL MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL WORK

FULL CHANDLERY

STRETCHING AND REBOTTOMING

GAS SAFE. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

ALL STEEL WORK AND TANKS

Support the boat yard on the "Lichfield Ring"

Boat Transport, England, Europe ●Crannage Arranged

Site Surveys ● Complete Service for DIY ● Repairs

Boat Hire ●Boat Fitting ●Diesel Pump Out

● Mooring ● Boat Sales ● Laundry

Trent & Mersey Canal

V.A.T No. 133609427



I hope you're enjoying the summer. As I write, we've had a run of hot and sunny weather, so it's been challenging for our green, grounds and construction volunteers who, as always, have been working hard out on site. We've also had an extreme heat weather warning, so it's been important to protect ourselves from the sun, keep cool and well hydrated and even stay indoors at the peak.

This is my first Cut Both Ways column since being elected as Chair at the Board meeting on 14 June. I'd like to give huge thanks to Chris Bull



who, at the AGM, stood down as Chair after five very successful years. Her incredibly dedicated work as Chair, whilst also holding the role of Environment Director, has enabled the Trust to make significant progress. She has also provided me with a huge amount of support, background information and advice in handing over the reins, for which I am incredibly grateful. She will be a hard act to follow.

There is an article about the AGM later in this edition, but I would also like to thank other trustees who stood down at that meeting – John Bryan, Stefan Szulc, Steve Webster and Rev Brian Williams, who have worked so hard for the Trust over the years. I'm delighted to confirm that Stefan will still pull together Cut Both Ways every quarter, Steve will carry on with all he does for us in terms of plant, equipment and construction on site and Brian will continue to work with volunteers. They'll still also provide invaluable advice and experience, which is very welcome. We are a charity that relies entirely on volunteers and members, so are extremely grateful for all that they do for us.

As a resident of Lichfield, I'm really pleased to be working with such a dedicated group of fellow trustees, volunteers and members to help achieve our ambition to restore, reconstruct and ultimately reconnect the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals to the national canal network. Meanwhile, our work provides a blue and green corridor alive with abundant wildlife for walkers, joggers, cyclists and other visitors to enjoy. My favourite location is the Borrowcop Locks Canal Park on Tamworth Road – where we have a c300m stretch of the channel in water and a lovely heritage towpath trail. It's a great place to spot ducks, moorhens and the occasional heron, and see a wide variety of wildflowers. There are several memorial benches – some in the sunshine and others in shady spots – to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

We are currently looking to refresh our strategy and plans to achieve our goal and I hope to be able to share some more information about that in the autumn edition of Cut Both Ways. We've also refreshed our Board structure, so please have a look at the table on page 30, which shows how it all fits together.

There's always a warm welcome to new people who join our team, with roles both out on site and behind the scenes. There are opportunities for individuals to use a wide range of skills from planning, fundraising and construction to events, specialist IT applications such as GIS and CAD to supporting and coordinating our volunteers (and more besides!). We even have a current vacancy for a new trustee – volunteer resources. If you'd like to find out further information, please drop me a line to the address on the next page or fill in this form (lhcr.org.uk/volunteers.html) on our website to indicate your areas of interest, and we'll be in touch.

There's a lot of activity currently underway to secure future funding for the Trust. We are exploring a number of grants, which understandably require a huge amount of preparatory work and a lot of form filling at the application stage – so particular thanks to our trustees Bob, Chris, Christine, Colin and Peter for all they're doing to try to secure such valuable income streams to advance our construction work. After raising over £11,900 (plus Gift Aid) in 2021, we are also hoping to participate in this year's Big Give Christmas Challenge – please take a look at Christine's article on page 15 to find out more.

We had some thefts from our site at Tamworth Road earlier this month. Sadly, two cars and some personal belongings were stolen whilst our construction volunteers were working. We captured some really good images on CCTV, which were passed to the police, but they've been unable to identify the culprits. We've also posted the footage to our social media channels, so please do take a look. Coming on the back of previous vandalism at Falkland Road and damage and thefts elsewhere it's been very upsetting, especially to those directly impacted, and also to all volunteers who've worked so hard to make progress. Security – which of course comes at a further cost – has been enhanced as a result. These things hit us hard.

After a few weeks' absence, it was great to be back out on site on Saturday – this time at Muckley Common – where members of the green and grounds team were hacking through years of dense undergrowth to expose the canal route. I particularly like that



these work parties bring together young people from our Duke of Edinburgh groups, sometimes their parents and – ahem – those of us of an older generation, working together to make tangible progress. There were celebrations each time we revealed another of the marker posts. Thanks to the whole team who've been working there over the last few weeks and those who'll continue over the summer. Here are a few photos to give you a flavour.



I'm looking forward to being out and about on site, at events and meeting people behind the scenes in the coming weeks and months and getting to know as many volunteers and members as possible. If you live more remotely and can't get to events or indeed if you're more local but have any advice, ideas or thoughts on what you'd like to see in Cut Both Ways or any matter relating to the Trust, please email me on:

chair@lhcr.org.uk

Best wishes



Carole Mills - LHCRT Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM AND ERIC

Huge congratulations to Tom and Eric our star volunteers.

Both were commended in their categories at the Support Staffordshire Volunteer Star awards; Tom for young volunteer of the year and Eric for lifetime achievement award.

Although they didn't win, they are winners to us.



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.

Donations to the Trust: 1st April to 30th June 2022

Donations during this period from individuals and groups, plus ancillary items, totalled £21,629 including dedicated Appeals plus Gift Aid tax claims for UK taxpayers who completed the required formalities.

Assistance was given during this period by the following:-

- Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd, use of plant.
- Neil's Tyres Ltd, plant maintenance support.
- Steven Webster, plant maintenance and use of privately owned equipment.
- Westwood Building Services, plant.

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

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

Special thanks go to:-

- Briggs Equipment, Cannock, plant maintenance supplies.
- Donation of a Honda petrol strimmer by our member Phil Poole.
- A generous donation of £1,730.61 was made from the Colin Line Fund via The Community Foundation for Staffordshire.
- Mrs Margot Stroud for donating framed canal pictures and collection of books in memory of the late Terry Stroud, well known for "Waterway Pictures" sales.

**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@lhcart.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Total at 30th June 2022 :- 2,381
(Comprising 450 Adult, 1192 Family, 468 Retired, 257 Life,
2 junior, 7 businesses and 5 groups)

Welcome and thank you to the 34 new members who joined between 1 April and 30 June. The following are the members who gave us permission to publish their names:

Welcome to New Members – 1st April to 30th June 2022

Sammons, Bolton	Barton, Lichfield
Jones, Sutton Coldfield	Moss, Stafford
Horton, Lichfield	Moss, Stafford
Cliff, Hill Ridware	Brook, Lichfield
Layzell, Hill Ridware	Kelly, Darlington
Cheesman, Lichfield	Brown, Burntwood
Boylan, Caerphilly	Brown, Burntwood
Pritchard, Yoxall	Illsley, Lichfield
Honeysett, Stoke -on-Trent	Jenkins, Tamworth
Ashley, Tewkesbury	Coombes, Fareham
Bailey, Chulmleigh	Bustin, Lichfield
Olsson, Sweden	Taundry, Brownhills
Barton, Lichfield	Glenn, Lichfield

A huge welcome to our 34 new members above and those who didn't want their names listed too. It's lovely to see such a wide range of hometowns of our new members. Almost 70% of our members live in the Midlands, but we have 1% (22 people) who live overseas and we've just welcomed our first member from Sweden. I'd love to know how many of our members are boaters, but that's a project for another time. New members find us through a variety of means; some joining because they follow us on social media, others come and talk to us at events or talk to our hardworking workparty along the canal or see our notice boards and banners. We keep our membership subscriptions low (adult membership is £10 a year – less than £1 a month), so that we can attract as many new members as possible, but many of you add a donation to your subscription to help our funds. In fact, last year we received £11,111 in subscriptions and another £4,103 in donations with the subscriptions – almost half the total subscription income. Thank you! This quarter, we've also seen an increase in pets and teddy bear memberships. These are one-off payments which act as a donation really, but we love to see our new furry friends and feature them on the website and social media.

Thanks again for your support!

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.

287 subscribing members were eligible to share £430.50 in the June 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 June 2022 draw are, abbreviated for GDPR:

First prize	£ 223.86	No 187	Smith, Daventry, Northants.
Second prize	£ 146.37	No 67	Danbury, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.
Third prize	£ 60.27	No 164	Hiley, Walsall.

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)

My last report lightheartedly suggested that maybe we are eligible for a hedge planting award! Being serious, hedgerows are the UK's largest priority habitat – and are home to 80% of our woodland birds. 50% of UK hedgerows have been lost since WWII and of those that remain, 60% are badly-managed.

I sincerely hope we are not managing ours badly. Indeed, since our previous edition of CBW, many hours have been spent by our DofE and adult volunteers checking that the hundreds of saplings planted this year are surviving and clearing the grass and weeds from their immediate bases to improve their chances. The very dry conditions are a worry to us, as there's only so much watering that can be done. If you saw a group of 12 women working on Falkland Road on the evening of 12th July they were there for well over 2 hours, and removing the sleeve but leaving the cane if the sapling seems not to have survived, so that come autumn we know where to infill. A big thank you to the energetic and jolly Lichfield Ladies Circle, and to our Aileen and Margaret for taking the tools etc to them and running the evening. The DofE and adult volunteers have been doing a fair bit of this on several sites over the last few weeks, too.

Still with hedges: once the hedges we have planted get to about 120cm they need cutting, which leads to their bases thickening, which is the habitat that birds need, and which also, of course, is an attractive hedge. If you've walked the Summerhill site about 7 (or is it 8?) years ago Roger Barnett, aided by his wife Jean and new volunteer, me laid the 800m hedge there; Roger makes sure that in his winter downtime from bricklaying he gives it a good haircut. Not much of the hedging we have planted has reached that stage, except for a prolific run above the Nature Trail at Fosseway, which those DofE's with height and the good balance of youngsters trimmed a few weeks ago!

Other jobs done at Fosseway include tidying the canal channel in Zone A of Falkland Road, and on another occasion loading bricks on to a bigish trailer and pallets for removal to Old Lock 24 and reuse.

Along Tamworth Road and also along Gallows Reach the young folk spent several Saturday mornings clearing stones and chunky stuff (eg a buried tyre and some hefty metal bits) and loading into the big trailer for later removal. This was so that Steve and the Plant team could get the big scale, tractor towed flail mower along Gallows Reach (as Steve also does at Darnford Moor) to keep the route clear and along Tamworth Road so that seeding with wild flower and meadow mix could be spread. Look at Tamworth Road right now: beautiful display of wild flowers, some of which were given by City Council and which we seeded several years ago.

Depending on what needs doing, the adult Grounds/ Green team and the DofE's sometimes work separately. In the last few weeks, the DofE's took up where Bob Williams and an IMI Norgren Corporate Volunteering Day left off – at Muckley Common where years ago Peter Buck agreed with District Council where the slightly

revised route of the canal would go and put posts every 15 metres or so to mark that route. (The route needs to differ from the slightly higher original route as there is no way the hump back bridge can be rebuilt over the A5!).

Passage of time means that none of the posts were visible, so buried are they with huge brambles and remains of gorse. There's no way we can get machinery in there to keep it clear till we find the posts, so the last few weeks that DofE's have worked very hard (well, most of them!) to find them. More to do, but we're getting there, and such joy when they find a post!

More about young people: on 6th July, for just over an hour in the evening, I had the delightful (but deafening!) company of about 30 Cubs from the Maclean Pack of 7th Lichfield Scout Group, and, thankfully, 6 of its leaders/helpers. For some time I've been concerned that the Heras fenced small compound under the big oak tree by Fishface chippie was getting very overgrown, such that one could not see what was left in it other than a tall blue water butt. There was also a big heap of stones, etc (some of which a few of this year's Cubs had collected and stacked this time last year!) that needed loading on to a trailer. So, those with shorts I put on stone loading; those with long trousers into the nettles, etc in the compound. In such a short time, the transformation was unbelievable. About 20 of the metal stakes which hold up the orange safety netting were stacked upright; 3 rolls of tangled netting was de-weeded, stretched out on the grass and rolled round several of the big fencing posts that had been left, rotting, on the ground and another 12 posts stacked upright. We also discovered a small ladder and a length of hosepipe! I'm hoping that our heavy brigade read this and take note....!

The plea in that last sentence is to avoid waste, which leads me nicely into wider environmental matters. I reported last time that Lichfield District Council (LDC) was working on its required Nature Recovery Plan and that I was waiting for the consultancy it had retained to contact me. It now has, and I am working with the consultant as it is to be hoped that our sites could be of financial benefit to us – but much more before we know for sure. LDC's Ecology unit is back down to only one individual, so it's been difficult to arrange the on site meeting I have tried to get for some time, but I'm delighted to report it's now fixed for 25th July on our Darnford Moors site.

We currently have on average about 15-17 DofE volunteers each Saturday morning, and about 4 adult Grounds/Green team. In the 6 months of 2022 to end of June the DofE's have put in 464.5hours and the adult Grounds/Green team 194.25.

More adults would be most beneficial, and especially anyone who's happy to work with our youngsters.

Christine Bull (Grounds / Green Team)

Copy Date for the next issue is 3rd October.

The main renovation worksites for the last couple of months have been at Tamworth Road. Firstly, concreting the basin floor at Pound 25 but also making some progress with the new canal narrows—as it emerges from the redundant Lock 24, on the approach to Cricket Lane.

Pound 25



The work in Pound 25 has been digging out the old backfill material down to a stable base below canal depth and then to import stable material up to concrete depth and compact it. A visqueen membrane is then laid with rebar mesh above before concreting takes place. The imported material is actually the sand/sandstone which has been excavated from the new and deeper section of canal narrows further up. This means

that we can use some of the spoil material that we are digging out (see section below) and don't have to purchase it.

Concreting has been hampered by either rain in May, giving way to higher high temperatures more recently in June. We have however made good progress and only have the last few sections of basin floor to do now before we reach the old invert level—the old lower gate of former Lock 24.

Tamworth Road Narrows



The North wall has reached an inspection chamber for the 'big pipe' and so hasn't progressed any further in the last two months. However, Bill has finished off the top two courses of the former Lock chamber on the old Lock north wall and so we can start to fully complete sections of wall and move steadily westwards towards Cricket Lane.

The work here over the last two months has mainly been taking place on the South wall. We had

students from South Staffordshire College attend one Tuesday in late May and do some bricklaying for us.



As well as progressing with the wall, we needed to start reducing the level of the path that we installed after it crosses the old bywash. A lot of material has to be stripped in order to reduce the level for the new canal depth. Eventually both towpath and the current path will merge.

The good thing has been that once we strip the top surface of soil we initially reach sand and then a much harder sandstone and this is the material that we use as part of the sub-base for the basin floor in Pound 25.

We are having to resort to using the claw attachment to dig out the final 300mm or so.



Roger has also been progressing with the blue brick soldier courses in order that we can complete further sections of the south wall.

Once the soldier courses are laid we can complete that section of the wall by backfilling and topping out the towpath, before moving on.

The final thing we will need to do is to cast the concrete

floor in the narrows, but we need to work up a methodology as we can't cross wet concrete with plant and equipment.

Bricks



In the previous blog, thanks were given for the donation of around a thousand imperial bricks by a resident adjacent to Falkland Road.

A further thank you this month. Bill, whilst on his travels, came across a builder who has been altering a property and taking down an internal wall and so we were donated more bricks this month. Bill started bringing some in his car but eventually it was easier to send the trailer.

The bricks are a slightly different thickness but are harder and it's much easier to remove the mortar. Consequently, we have a ready supply of bricks to complete the next sections of canal wall—but please bear us in mind if you are altering an older house and have some old imperial bricks that you no longer need.

Michael Babb

PETS AND TEDDY BEAR MEMBERS

Say “woof” to Brie from Nottinghamshire and give a big bear hug to Wellington from Norfolk, Tarlie from Birmingham and Huddlesford from Stoke-on-Trent. They are our new pet and teddy bear members - what a lovely gallery of cuteness!

Huddlesford has a special tale to tell; He was found all alone, sitting on a post close to the hedge at Huddlesford Junction. He was very muddy so the family who found him took him to their boat and after a very long bath, he scrubbed up nicely. He is now a very happy boating bear and his links to canals make him a very keen canal restoration enthusiast. So he has agreed to be our new mascot, which is GRRRRreat! We hope to welcome him for a visit very soon, so watch this space for more of his adventures.



If you have any pets or toys who would like to become members and be featured on our website and in Cut Both Ways, contact Christine Howles or use the membership form on our website.

Christine Howles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

We are taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge again this year. We want to raise £75,000 for a lift bridge between Longbridge Road and Tamworth Road. The appeal will fund the manufacture, supply and installation of a bespoke lift bridge by a specialist manufacturer. It's all slightly complicated but, in simple terms, the Big Give gives a chance for us to potentially double the value of donations that come our way.

Big Give funding is in three parts: pledges, champion funds and donations, and we are trying to raise:

£18,750 from pledges

£18,750 from champion funds (external funders and partners of the Big Give)
If we successfully attract them.

£37,500 from public donations

Stage 1. Pledges (now until 1 September)

We need to collect at least £18,750 in online pledges (of at least £100 each) by 1 September.

These are essential for us to take part in the campaign. They also incentivise individual donors, as their donation is doubled by the value of the pledges (plus any champion funds we attract).

Stage 2. Donations

The campaign goes live at noon on Tuesday 29 November 2022 and ends at noon on Tuesday 6 December. That's when people can donate online and their donation will be doubled up to the value of the pledges plus any champion funds. The rules state that, if we're lucky enough to receive donations greater than the value of the pledges plus champion funds, those contributions cannot be doubled but will still provide us with invaluable income.

Stage 3. Pledgers pay their pledge

Once the appeal is over, on 6 December, we'll contact the pledgers to ask them to pay the amount they pledged.

What do we need?

We need to as many pledges as possible before 1 September.

If you can help – please make your pledge using this link:

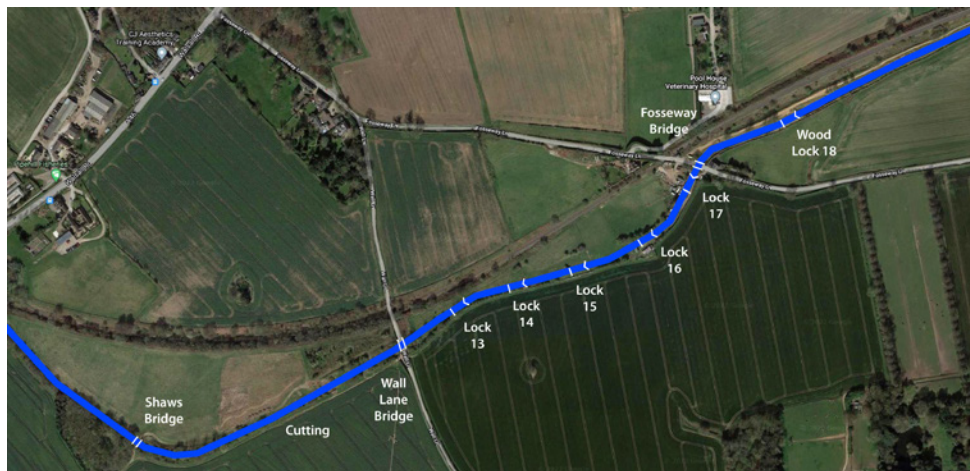
<https://bit.ly/BGbridge>

Christine Hawles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

RESTORATION: FOSSEWAY LANE TO OGLEY (PART 2)

In the previous article we reviewed the restoration from Huddlesford to Fosseway Lane. In this article we continue the journey up the top three Lock flights from Fosseway Lane to Ogley Junction.

From an engineering point of view, apart from a couple of major road crossings, this half of the restoration is much simpler. However, restorations are complicated things with many different factors affecting each site: engineering, funding, land ownership and particular opportunities. Progress is usually driven more by tactics and opportunities than by strategy.



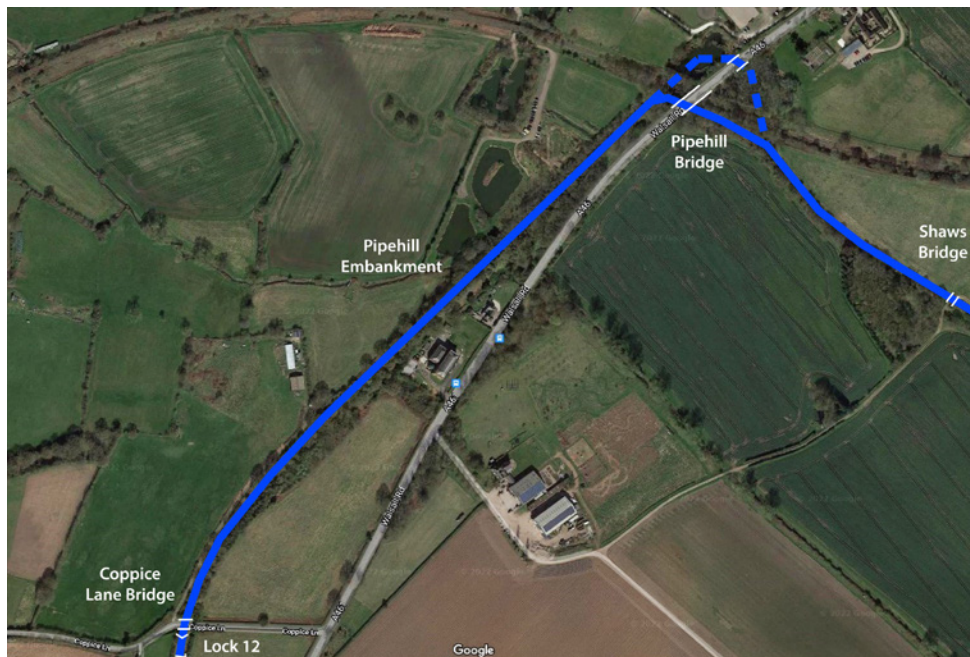
Lock 18 just before Fosseway Lane, now known as Wood Lock after Trust Founder Eric Wood, was one of the early restoration sites. The Lock is restored and ready for gates and water. The channel above has recently been re-excavated up to Fosseway Lane and the towpath wall rebuilt.

There was a sharp turn into the bridge, which appears to have been demolished, but the road height here makes reinstatement relatively straightforward. Another challenge is an extension of the Lock cottage which partially obstructs the towpath ramp up to the road.

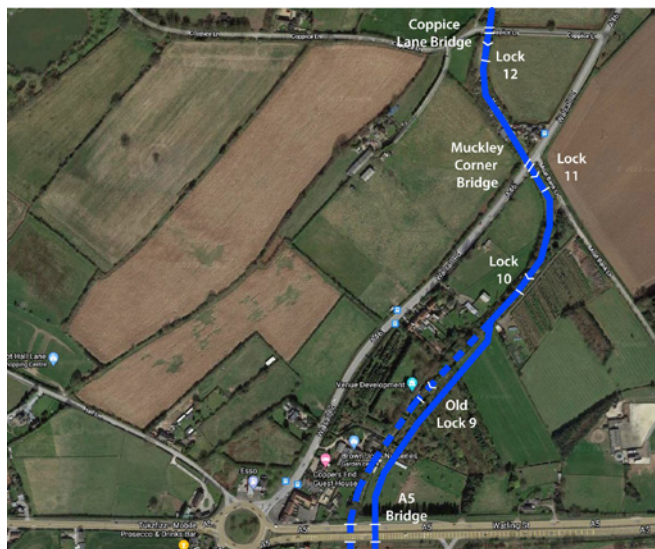
Locks 17-13 were infilled fairly soon after the canal was closed and are likely to be well preserved. It's rumoured that one of the chambers was filled with a lorry load of old shoes! These locks and their side pounds were particularly attractive, sweeping down the hillside with open vistas across to Lichfield Cathedral and will be a beautiful feature once restored.

Above the locks Wall Lane Bridge has either been demolished or buried, but as the canal entered a cutting at this point again there is plenty of headroom to rebuild it. The cutting itself has been infilled and will need to be re-excavated. Beyond the cutting, Shaw's Bridge has been flattened and will probably require replacement.

RESTORATION: FOSSEWAY LANE TO OGLEY (PART 2)

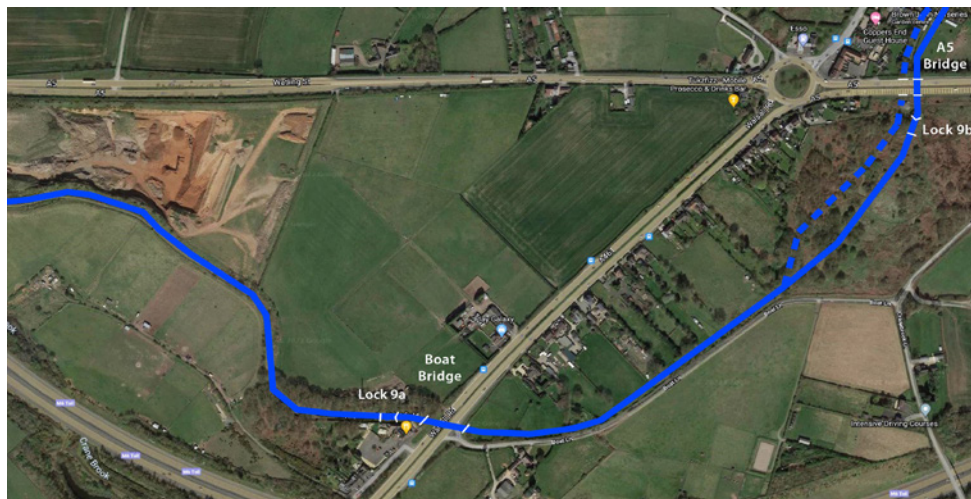


The section from here to the intact Pipehill bridge then runs over the long intact embankment behind Pipehill pumping station and still holds some water but is overgrown. This section will be one of the most straightforward to restore. This brings us to the dropped Coppice Lane Bridge which will need to be replaced and approach ramps built for the road.



Beyond the bridge is the infilled Lock 12 and above the channel will need to be dug out as far as the A461 bridge which survives intact. Immediately beyond the bridge lies the infilled Lock 11 and a little further along Lock 10, both of which lie in a tree nursery. In the last few weeks the DoE volunteers have begun some clearance work on this length.

RESTORATION: FOSSEWAY LANE TO OGLEY (PART 2)



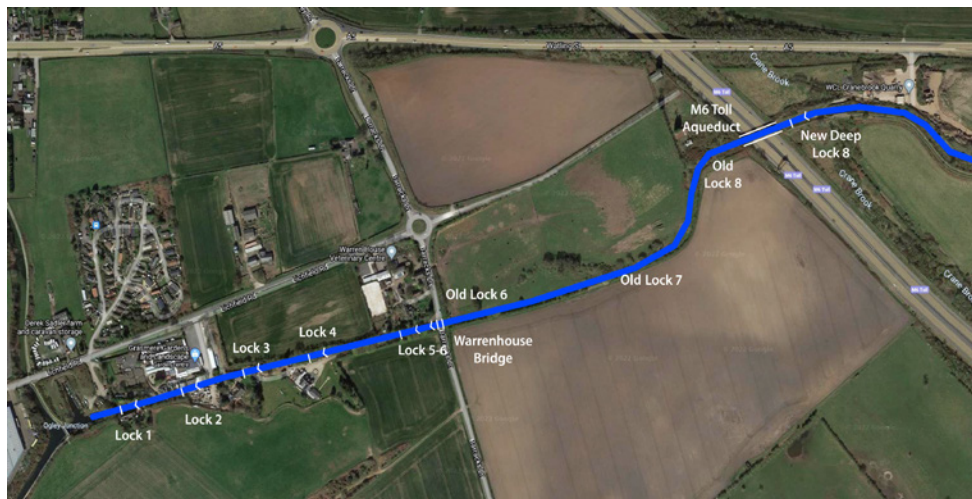
Lock 9 was the top Lock of the second flight, but this will need to be relocated to solve the two biggest challenges on this length of restoration, the A5 and the A461 Boat Bridge crossings. The channel will need to be moved slightly to the south east of its current alignment and the fall of Lock 9 split in two. The first half will be located just to the South of the A5 to give headroom to get under the dual carriageway, the other half will need to be moved to the far side of the A461, Boat Bridge, to get under that dual carriageway. This will mean the channel will have to be lowered by half a Lock for the length across Wall Butts Common between the A5 and the A461.

The next section at Summerhill has been cleared and the towpath reinstated, an attractive and rural stretch except for the M6 Toll Road roaring down the valley. At the end of this section the Trust has rebuilt the culvert and embankment that carried the canal over the Crane Brook.

After the Crane Brook is one of the most impressive feats of the project to date, the aqueduct installed to carry the canal over the M6 Toll. The aqueduct crosses the road about two locks higher than the level of the original bed, meaning that Locks 7-8 will need to be combined into a new deep Lock just before the aqueduct.

An embankment will then need to be built to carry the restored channel over old Lock 8, the bottom of the first flight from Ogley Junction, and reconnect with the original level at old Lock 7 which, like old Lock 24, will become narrows.

The canal, which had a wide side pound, then comes to Lock 6, Barracks Lane and Warrenhouse Bridge and immediately after to Lock 5. Warrenhouse Bridge was a steep hump-backed bridge which was demolished in the 70's. Around the bridge are drives accessing the farm and a house built over the side Pound of Lock 4. This means it may be necessary to move Lock 6 to the other side of the bridge and make it into a staircase pair with Lock 5 in order to get under Barracks Lane.



The trust will need to provide a new access for a number of the properties alongside the top four locks and for the privacy of the owners, will have to move the towpath to the other side of the canal. The locks themselves were again infilled fairly soon after the canal was closed and are likely to be in reasonable condition under the infill.

The locks here all had large side pounds which cannot be used as two properties have been built on them so a different solution will be required, either back-pumping or creating links with pipes to resited side pounds. With a generous grant from the Manifold Trust and a private legacy, the Trust were able to buy the two cottages by the top lock, along with the infilled chamber, which they currently rent out.

This completes the journey from Huddlesford up to Ogley Junction. As mentioned, other than the A5 and A461 dual carriageways, this section contains considerably fewer engineering challenges than the lower half of the canal. However, much more of this length lies in private ownership and so progress on this section will require more negotiation and land purchase.

Duncan Moore

ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to inform you of the passing of the following members:

David Moore, former Director, who passed away in July 2022. (see page 24)

John Baylis who passed away on 7th. July 2022. (see page 24)

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

The mid-summer week-end of the 25-26 June 2022 was glorious with some 6,000 people visiting Braunston from as far afield as Australia and Canada! The showground and towpath were packed to the gunnels on Saturday, less so on Sunday, but together made the event a financial success enabling Braunston Marina to donate £5,000 to various charitable causes.



Photo by Tim Coghlan

As shown on the front cover, media stars Timothy West and Prunella Scales mixed with show-goers, jointly opening the Rally onboard Friends of Raymond's pair of boats. Prunella was celebrating her 90th birthday, with Daventry Brass Band playing Happy Birthday to her, and the fans singing along.

Sir David Suchet CBE was expected to attend but had to withdraw last minute due to a pressing family concern. However, Tim Coghlan as Managing Director of Braunston Marina honoured his commitment to donate £1,000 to Lichfield & Hatherton as one of his favourite charities. Helped by L&H team members Colin Booker and Sarah Mallett, this boosted event net gain to an exceptional £1,243.46. Thank you all!

Another missing celebrity was Pete Waterman, well known for his music, canal and railway interests who had to cry off at the last moment owing to an over-running filming engagement he could not leave.

Tim Coghlan said; "What a fantastic response we had to our first Post Covid Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally, for which we really pushed the boat out. Everyone said how pleased they were to be back, enjoying the great canal spectacle and the fine June weather. We had 85 historic narrowboats in attendance, versus 71 in 2019—the last time we held the Rally—which showed just how keen their proud and caring owners were to re-enjoy this great get together, the 18th we have held since they started in 2003."



Photo by Tim Coghlan

Bob Williams, Director (Finance Director)

Caroline tells us why she joined the events team

I have been volunteering for LHCRT for nearly a year now and a lot has changed since I started. I am a member of the Marketing and Events team; it is our job to promote LHCRT and to fundraise for the Trust, so we have the funds and materials to restore the canals. As I now live in Yorkshire, it is hard for me to volunteer regularly, but I try to help out every time I come to Lichfield and via Zoom when I can't.



I decided to come aboard and be a volunteer because I have an interest in restoring our local heritage landmarks and I think the canal is going to be an amazing space for the local community to enjoy. Since I started volunteering, I have learnt just how much work and how many people it will take to make this happen. Although I am not able to volunteer on the canal itself, it feels

great to be a part of something that you can see taking shape and rising to the next level.

I have gained so much experience since I started volunteering and the LHCRT crew have all been very welcoming and supportive. I hope to use these skills and everything I have learnt so I can continue helping to restore the canals as well as in my full-time job. Everyone has been supportive and I cannot imagine a better crew to be part of.

Caroline Habart

Come and join the events team

Do you enjoy talking to people?

Could you spare a few hours a month?

You could join the marketing and events team.

You'd come to events, talk to people about the canal, sell grand prize draw tickets or our LHCRT merchandise – we'll show you what to do.

Or just come along to help put the gazebo up and set up or be a steward at bigger events.

You can be a regular member or just help when you can.

Any help would be appreciated.

**Contact Christine Howles volunteering@lhcr.org.uk or
07852 190855 (weekends of evening are best)**

David Suchet Tunnel Vision Appeal



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>

Lichfield Canal, Darnford Moors

In our last edition, we announced that applications for a Habitats Improvement Project were in hand with potential funding of £103,000, linking a grant of 40% from European Regional Development Fund [ERDF] with match funding of 60% from HS2 Community and Environment Fund [CEF].

Both of these have required further research to submit more precise details before being considered eligible for any funding. The ERDF element is controlled by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership [GBSLEP] whose range includes Lichfield. Their resident Ecologist has been very helpful in assessing the site during a visit in May to identify habitats, giving detailed advice on those areas for lasting improvement which can be monitored at intervals over 7 years.



As shown above, contractual work for completion over six months by February 2023 will improve Darnford Brook wetlands, existing woodland and hedgerows from Darnford Lane past the lift bridge.

Completion of part of the canal channel in water beyond the lift bridge, upstream of old Lock 30, will provide some mitigation for disruption from railway construction for HS2 which took legal possession from LHCRT in 2019 of the canal section between the Lock and Cappers Lane. For many years, this had been used to store water that could be abstracted under an Environment Agency Licence to provide a local farm with fee-paid seasonal crop irrigation.

View east from the lift bridge of the dry channel since closure in late 1950's seen in its present condition with sponsored piling installed 20 years ago.



Visualisation prior to habitat improvements of the restored channel in water suitable for abstraction in a permanent section of the Lichfield Canal.

Additionally, an Expression of Interest has been submitted for a BIFFA Award minimum grant of £250,000 for similar environmental outcomes. This could potentially extend the project work to end of 2023 to restore the remaining canal channel in water between Darnford Lane and the lift bridge.

These grants combine as an exceptional opportunity to deal with the long-outstanding Darnford Moors development. In a letter of support from Mr Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, he comments that the “canal network is both a key piece of heritage and a natural capital asset, providing diverse habitats and wildlife corridors” adding his full endorsement to the project for its regional importance.

Other Council support

Legal transfer to LHCRT of the Lichfield Canal corridor beside Falkland Road approved by Staffordshire County Council is following a process for handover.

Therefore, the grant of £260,000 approved by Lichfield District Council from their Community Infrastructure Levy scheme last February has yet to be formalised with terms and conditions in a Standard Funding Agreement and given planning permission before any canal work can commence on that site.

Bob Williams, Director (Finance Director)

DAVID MOORE OBITUARY

David Moore, former director and member of the marketing and events team, passed away peacefully on Monday 4 July. His daughter Jude posted this tribute.

"We'd like to let you know that Dave / David / our Dad, passed away peacefully on Monday evening (4th. July). Dad was well known in the waterways community—The Inland Waterways Association member and active volunteer for more than 50 years: IWA Chelmsford Branch Chairman, IWA South East Region Chairman, 114 Admin support, Earls Court/Southampton Boat Show team, National Rally Chairman Brentford '86, IWA National Sales Stand team plus long time Waterway Recovery Group WRGie (first as Dave then as 'Jude's Dad'), London Canal Museum volunteer (yes THAT photo with HRH Princess Royal Tim Lewis!), Marketing Manager and more for Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust, Canal Card Collector's Circle , Canal and Railway Historical Society and many more and we haven't really started on the steam trains or the cricket"



JOHN BAYLIS OBITUARY

Many will have known John Baylis, a keen and generous supporter of our Trust who died on 7th July 2022. He was involved with many waterway groups including IWA & the Chesterfield Canal Society and mostly for our interest he was a great friend of the BCN Society. He appeared at many of our rallies on his boat Thornbury helping where he could with dedication to the waterways. He organised the supply of mooring rings we installed on the Lichfield Canal.

BROWNHILLS CANAL FESTIVAL 2022

The Festival 2022 will be back on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 August.

Silver Street will be the venue for floating traders, historic narrowboats, land traders and more.

Come and join the fun.



OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our 32nd Annual General Meeting as a hybrid gathering on 10 June 2022, after a COVID-enforced break of two years. It was wonderful to be back together whilst also having the Zoom option for our members across the world.



We were able to take stock of our achievements over the last year, recording these in our first glossy annual report. Despite 2021 being the second year of COVID, we achieved a great deal and Bob, Peter and Chris gave overviews of how we performed. This was followed by Eric, our President, leading us in a standing ovation.

As with each AGM, we had some Trustees standing down and offering themselves for re-election, but this year was a bit different. Following a review of our structure, we've reduced the Board of Trustees from thirteen to ten, so the following offered their resignation; John Bryan, Brian Williams, Steve Webster and Stefan Szulc. Brian, Steve and Stefan will still be very much involved as Trust officers, but John has decided to stand down completely after a period of ill-health. We thanked them all for their contributions, along with Dora Hancock, who'd resigned earlier in the year. Colin Booker and Carole Mills were formally elected to the Board having been co-opted in the last few months.

Our excellent Chair, Chris Bull, announced her retirement from the role of Chair. She'd originally agreed to take on the position for two years but has now been in post for five and has passed the baton to Carole Mills. We presented her with a thank you gift of a bottle of champagne signed by our Vice-President David Suchet, a painting by Stuart Sampson and some flowers.



Afterwards, we had an interesting talk by Matt Whitehouse and Aoinne Conway from Balfour Beatty VINCI (BBV). They told us about how the Lichfield Canal will benefit from the HS2 work in the area, with BBV building a section of the canal for us, due to the rerouting of Cappers Lane. It was a detailed presentation, including

specifications and timescales. We hope to report more on this in the future. Thank you to everyone who came along to the AGM, both in person and on Zoom, we hope you found it useful. Huge thanks also to Jon Wood (one of our members) who arrived very early to set up all the technology for Zoom and the presentation and monitored proceedings throughout the meeting to make sure it all went smoothly.

Christine Howles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

Boatpainting, Repairs & Restoration



We specialise in providing high quality boat painting at our centrally located dry-dock facility.

Work is carried out by our experienced staff in a temperature and humidity controlled environment using best quality materials.

We also provide a full range of boat yard services, everything from welding and engineering right through to polishing and lacquering your brassware for that finishing touch.

**GRIT BLASTING
AND 2 PACK EPOXY
FOR YOUR HULL AND
BASE PLATE**



www.canaltransportservices.co.uk

info@canaltransportservices.co.uk

07866 022686 | 01543 374370

Copper's End Guesthouse

Walsall Road, Muckley Corner, Lichfield, WS14 0BG

A quiet, friendly guest house where a guest's comfort is our prime concern.

From £55 single, £75 double or twin ensuite per night. Includes full English breakfast or vegetarian equivalent.

Three miles from Lichfield, six miles from Walsall.

Tel: 01543 372910

www.coppersendguesthouse.co.uk



Your Privacy

The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd is committed to protecting your privacy and security in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. We will never sell your personal data, and if we share your personal data, it will only ever be with our partner organisations where necessary to provide services, and only then if we are certain that its privacy and security are guaranteed. For more information about how your data is used and stored please visit www.lhcrt.org.uk/privacy.

Shopping

Bucket hats and baseball caps: £12.00

Double-wall insulated travel cups: £7.00

2023 calendars featuring images of our canals taken by local photographers: £9.00

To order by phone contact Christine on 07852 190855
or order online: www.lhcrt.org.uk/shop



For the latest pictures, news and on-line ordering of sales items, don't forget to take a look at the web site.

www.lhcrt.org.uk

Mark Taylor  Humanists UK

For a Celebration of a Life

Non-Religious Humanist Funeral Celebrant
Accredited by Humanists UK

01543 264602 07779 187384
mark.taylor@humanistceremonies.org.uk
www.humanist.org.uk/marktaylor

CUT CRAFTS

Boat covers, upholstery, curtains made/repaired
cutcrafts.co.uk
Call Ben on 07796170865

Shaun Greatrix AMIHE
Development Control Engineer &
Civil Engineering Designer

SJG
CONSULTING

Email: shaun@greatrixconsulting.com
Linkedin: [linkedin.com/in/shaun-j-greatrix/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/shaun-j-greatrix/) www.greatrixconsulting.com



Austen Prince Limited
chartered accountants

Accountancy and taxation solutions for businesses and individuals

Dale A. Prince BA (Hons), FCA

07768 816618

dale.prince@tiscali.co.uk



07815 445430
merciafarmersmarket.org.uk

Bringing local producers
and customers together,
making it simpler to
source locally grown
vegetables and freshly
made goods.

With over 30 producers,
we have everything you
need in one place.

Hunnypot Cottage

Artisan breads and pastries
Monthly subscription boxes
Bespoke bread courses

07815 445430

hunnypotcottagebakery.co.uk



CHASETOWN
CIVIL ENGINEERING LTD 

**Over 45 years of civil
engineering experience**

We are proud of our continued
work with local causes and
organisations.

Tel. 01543 682564

www.chasetowncivil.co.uk



beautiful gardens

Professional Landscape Gardeners

- Professional & reliable service
- Free advice & design ideas
- Over 20yrs of landscaping experience
- Members of TrustMark Scheme, Association of Professional Landscapers & HTA
- Free visit to your property to discuss your requirements & measure-up

**Call now for
a free quote**

Office: 01543 444 470

Mobile: 07709 433 493



www.beautifulgardens.co.uk

REVISED TARIFF FOR ADVERTS IN “CUT BOTH WAYS”

1/8 page £27

1/4 inside page £46

1/2 inside page £83

Full inside page £129

Business Members

Annual subscription £100 with 1/8 page trade advert

full inside cover £140 (reserved for continuing use.)

full outside back cover £218 (reserved for continuing use.)

These prices cover twelve months in four quarterly editions and are subject to VAT at standard rate. Special artwork can be provided on request.

NOTES: Single edition advert @ 50% annual rate.

Two edition advert @ 75% annual rate.

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.

TRUSTEES

Chair	Carole Mills	07712 583418	chair@lhcr.org.uk
Communications and Marketing	Christine Howles	07852 190855	info@lhcr.org.uk
Company Secretary	Colin Booker	07771 926071	colin.booker2022@hotmail.com
Construction and Operations	Peter Buck	01543 268041	bucksafloat@gmail.com
Environment	Christine Bull	01283 790322	chrismarybull@yahoo.co.uk
Finance & Funding	Bob Williams	01543 671427	bob_williams80@hotmail.com
IWA Nominee	Luke Walker	07979 862195	luke@lukewalker.me.uk
Land and Property	Jeff March	01889 882984	jeffmarch49@gmail.com
Technical Matters	Derek Lord	01283 712518	derek.w.lord@gmail.com
Membership	Christine Howles	07852 190855	members@lhcr.org.uk
Volunteer Resources	vacant		

OFFICERS

Magazine Editor	Stefan Szulc	01543 677156	editor@lhcr.org.uk
Press Officer	Tom Reid	07840 300178	tommy_reid@yahoo.co.uk
Webmaster	Paul Marshall	01543 410646	webmaster@lhcr.org.uk
Health & Safety	Sharon Oliphant		seoliphant.lhcr@gmail.com
Development Control	Shaun Greatrix	07931 769440	shaun@greatrixconsulting.com
Volunteering / Events	Christine Howles	07852 190855	volunteering@lhcr.org.uk
Plant	Steven Webster	07795 554056	stevewebsterlhcr@gmail.com
Work Parties:-			
Hatherton	Denis Cooper	01543 374370	
Lichfield	Hugh Millington	01543 251747	hsandgamillington@gmail.com
Lichfield	Tony Cadwallader	07985 982858	tonyc@ldb.co.uk
Grounds Maintenance	Christine Bull	01283 790322	chrismarybull@yahoo.co.uk

Registered Office: Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 1WA

Web Site: www.lhcr.org.uk

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RETAIL TRADING LIMITED.

Company No 3686837 – Chair: Christine Howles; Secretary: Colin Booker; Finance: Bob Williams.

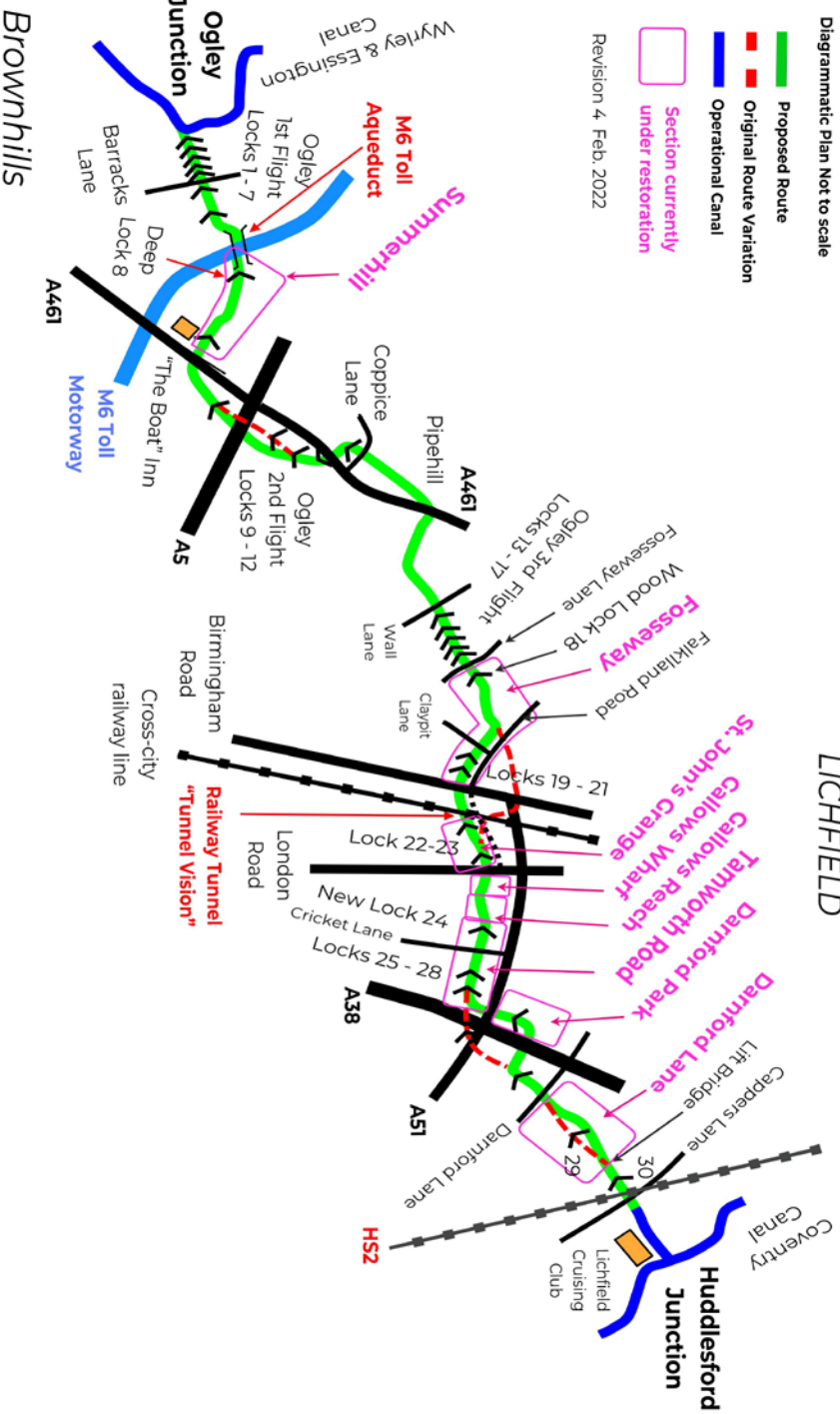
THE LICHFIELD CANAL

Diagrammatic Plan Not to scale

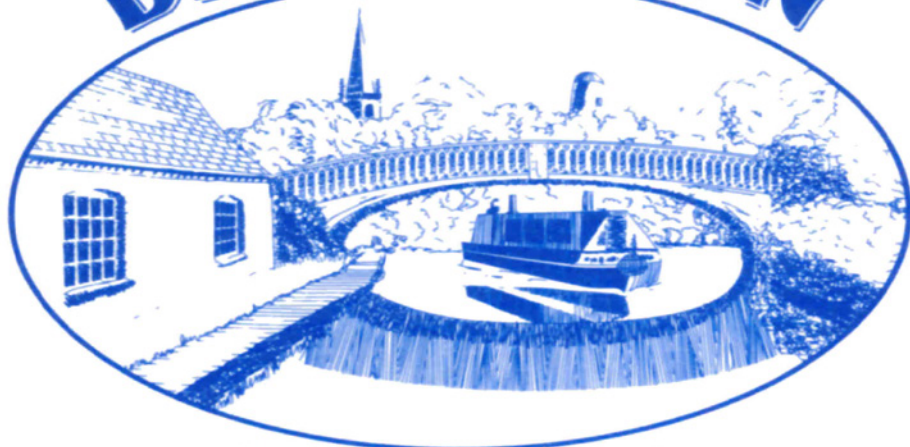
- Proposed Route
- Original Route Variation
- Operational Canal
- Section currently under restoration

Revision 4 Feb. 2022

City of LICHFIELD



BRAUNSTON



MARINA

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

keep digging the ground from under their feet!

Braunston Marina

**The Wharf, Braunston, Nr Daventry,
Northamptonshire. NN11 7JH**

Telephone: 01788 891373

Fax: 01788 891436

web site: www.braunstonmarina.co.uk

email: sales@braunstonmarina.co.uk