

CUT BOTH WAYS

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust



DofE volunteers working at Darnford Moors,
see page 22 to find out why.



Issue No. 113
Autumn 2022



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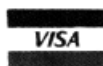
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There is definitely an autumnal feeling in the air as I write this. My favourite time of year, when the trees are so beautiful with their explosion of yellows, reds and golds and the leaves are starting to fall. It's lovely to walk along the towpaths and lanes with the crunch of leaves underfoot and enjoy the last of the warm sunshine as we head into the cooler and crisper winter months that lie ahead.

Thinking back to the summer, it was good to see such a fantastic turnout at the Brownhills Canal Festival on 20–21 August. Blessed with good

weather, there was a brilliant buzz along the towpath with boats and stalls selling all kinds of goods. Our stand was really busy with lots of visitors wanting to hear about what we do, buying raffle tickets and merchandise and generally catching up and chatting with old friends and new. Many thanks to Christine Howles for organising another great event and for all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen. A few of them feature in the photo.



Since the last edition, our wonderful volunteers have continued to work hard on our various projects. Many thanks to all of them, without whom the Trust could not make progress to restore, rebuild and reconnect the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals to the national network.



Please take a look at Mike Babb's work party report on page 12 to hear more about the construction work at Tamworth Road. Our Green and Grounds volunteers, working alongside Duke of Edinburgh young people, scouts and members of the work party and plant maintenance teams have worked hard at various sites, particularly Darnford Moors, Fosseway and Gallows Wharf to cut back some rather fierce brambles, bracken and gorse, and clear towpaths and canal channels. Find out more in Chris Bull's report on page 10/11

We try very hard to keep things looking as neat and attractive as possible, but sometimes it's an uphill struggle as nature keeps reclaiming areas almost as fast as we clear them! If you'd like to join one of our friendly and welcoming teams, please contact me at the address below.

We've also made great progress on various grant applications, and have been awarded £41,200 by the European Regional Development Fund and £61,800 from HS2's Community and Environment Fund towards our exciting new project at Darnford Moors. This will see an expansion of our commitment to sustainable wildlife habitats and a further section of the Lichfield Canal being in water. Many thanks to Trustees; Bob Williams, Colin Booker, Derek Lord and Peter Buck who have worked so hard on the extensive paperwork required for these and other funding bids. See Bob's article on page 22 for more details

For our 2022 Big Give campaign we're seeking funding for a new lift bridge near Longbridge Road. Thanks to the fantastic generosity of 67 people, we reached our initial £18,750 pledge target within an hour of the deadline. Although sadly we didn't secure champion funding (as they tend to go for charities directly involving children and animals) we still go through to the next stage, with fundraising starting on 30 November. Please mark that date in your diary and think about who you might be able to encourage to donate to the campaign. Christine Howles' article on Page 15 provides more information.

As you know, fundraising of various types is critical to our success and there are several ways in which people can support us. With Christmas just around the corner, there are some great new products in our online shop www.lhcrt.org.uk/shop. Our annual raffle (with a first prize of £750) will be drawn on 12 November—tickets are available from any Trustee or the online shop. We're always looking to grow our membership – which currently stands at almost 2,300—comprising individuals, families, businesses and young people both local and from all around the country and overseas. Annual membership starts at £6 for juniors, students, retired and unemployed people, £10 for adults and £15 for families. Other categories are set out on www.lhcrt.org.uk/membership.html. We've had a few people contact us recently about wanting to leave a legacy to the Trust, which is incredibly generous of them and very much appreciated. If you're thinking about making or updating your will, our website sets out what to do at www.lhcrt.org.uk/gift-in-will.html.

We have some events between now and Christmas – including a guided walk in November, Volunteers' Dinner in early December and the Christmas Carols evening on 17 December, and I look forward to seeing some of you there. Meanwhile, if you 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

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS RETURN

After a COVID-enforced break, we were pleased to welcome back corporate volunteers this autumn. Among the first groups were teams from JLR and from IHG Hotels and Resorts. They worked at Muckley Common and at Darnford Moors, clearing the brambles and more.



We received a lot of positive feedback, including:

“We all had a great time.”

“A great challenge, loads to do, loads to get stuck into... challenges are highly motivating for me and this one delivered.”

MEET THE VOLUNTEER



Margaret Broadhead

Margaret is a busy lady, not only is she a member of the green and grounds team on Saturdays, she's a member of the marketing team and you can often find her taking part in sponsored walks. Her latest was a 15-mile hike around Holy Island, Anglesey and then up the top of Holyhead Mountain. She raised a fantastic £200 for us.

Before she retired, she was the tape librarian for West Midlands Police, looking after the interview tapes and videos.

MEET THE NEW TEDDY BEAR MEMBERS

Huddlesford Bear has been encouraging his friends to join us so we welcome; Chomper Bear-ver, Tour Guide Ted, Frank and Theo, Berkshire Bears, Jinjah Bear, FH bear and Hattie Otter. It's a one-time payment of £5 for teddies and pets to join.



<https://lhcr.org.uk/membership.html>

Donations to the Trust: 1st July to 30th September 2022

Donations during this period from individuals and groups, plus ancillary items, totalled £85,679 including exceptional legacies (noted elsewhere in this edition) and dedicated appeals, plus Gift Aid tax claims for UK taxpayers who completed the required formalities.



In particular, we acknowledge with gratitude that our late member Alastair Ainsworth, who died in 2020, had made a magnificent bequest of £74,290.13. This was presented by his former friends Natalie and Steven Taylor during a personal visit from Devon to Lichfield in July, followed by a conducted tour of the canal which they said would have been of great interest to him.

Assistance was given during this period by the following:

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

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

- Canal restoration, plant maintenance and repair.
- Green and Grounds Team, planting, vegetation control and maintenance of Heritage Towpath Trail for public benefit.
- Marketing and Retail Trading fundraising support to the Trust.
- Beacon Street Allotments Association - donation of tools.

**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 30th September 2022: 2,392
(Comprising 463 Adult, 1188 Family, 466 Retired, 261 Life,
2 junior, 7 businesses and 5 groups)

Welcome to New Members – 1st July to 30th September 2022

Caldicott, Birmingham
Muggleton, Lichfield
Hayes, Burnham on Crouch
Ford, Warrington
Thurman, Letchworth Garden City
Meades, Wolverhampton
Taylor, Exeter
Betts, Lichfield
Brookes, Redlands
Allan, Walsall
Metcalf, Walsall

Newman, Cheslyn Hay
Walker, Burton on Trent
Higgs, Birmingham
Parkes, France
Dover, Southampton
Taylor, Stafford
Hinks, Lichfield
Finlan, Burntwood
McPherson, US
Couper, Worcester
Ridgway, Wolverhampton

A huge welcome to our 31 new members above and those who didn't want their names listed too. Unfortunately, we lost 17 members this quarter, some of those have sadly died and we'd like to pass our sincere condolences to the friends and families of:

Mr J W Baylis (see issue 112 for his obituary)
Mr DL Moore (see issue 112 for his obituary)
Mr J Denton
Mr S Pitt (see page 21)
Mr A Brewer
Mr JA Duffill
Mr W Garbett

For the other members we have lost, I fear the cost-of-living crisis has had an impact and it is understandable that some people are having to cut back on membership subscriptions, even though we do keep ours low. What I will say is; please do reach out if you have a change in circumstances. We may be able to reduce your membership level to the concessionary rate, change the date of your renewal or perhaps allow you to pay over a longer period.

A huge thanks to all of you for continuing to renew each year and especially to those of you who renew automatically by Direct Debit, standing order or PayPal subscription. It helps me, and the Trust, enormously in time and postage costs if I don't need to send a letter. And a final thank you to those of you who include a donation with your subs, so far this year we've received over £2,800 this way, which is amazing especially considering so many people are having to cut back on their spending.

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.

292 subscribing members were eligible to share £438.00 in the September draw, created by random electronic selection during a Trust meeting and invigilated independently.

So please spread the word.

The winners of the September 2022 draw are, abbreviated for GDPR:

First prize £ 227.76 No 47 Wadham, Lichfield.

Second prize £ 148.92 No 95 White, Godstone, Surrey.

Third prize £ 61.32 No 54 Parkes, Burntwood, 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)

Elsewhere in this edition will be the exciting news about funding to start to create Darnford Moors Ecology Park (see page 22). My last report told of the many weeks we had spent at Muckley Common and, since the summer edition, we had a further three sessions there, and a couple of corporate volunteer days and it is now hoped that the canal route can now be kept under control with machines.



The Darnford Moors project has a tight time schedule and we are now concentrating on vegetation clearance before the heavy work can start. So the last eight Saturday work parties could more or less be summarised as “brambles, brambles and yet more brambles”! But they need to be removed before sheet piling

and paths can be remedied. Peter Buck And Steve Webster had also strimmed the very overgrown flood area of Darnford Brook as preparation for later creation of wetlands. So there were branches and debris to be removed, too. The dense overgrowth had deterred golfers over many years from attempting to retrieve balls – so several of the youngsters have bagged in total about 100 balls!

All that overgrowth is too much to create habitat piles, so my love of a jolly good bonfire has beaten my environmental safeguarding principles into a temporary second place!

Linked to the Ecology Park project we have taken several ecologists to the site: Lichfield District Council's Ecology and Climate Change Manager; Staffs Wildlife Trust's wetlands expert and one of the Trent Valley Partnership team are very impressed at the huge potential for biodiversity gains, carbon capture and climate change mitigation and we are most grateful to them for their expert advice.

With the work we do in the Grounds/ Green and DofE groups being mostly manual it is good that we are seeing a steady increase in the number of young people working with us. So far this year the average weekly turnout of DofE's has been 13, and last Saturday was a record of 20. Our adult team has shrunk slightly. If you know of any adults who may be interested, especially with helping with the youngsters please ask them to check the website and contact us.



Similarly, if anyone has any shears, loppers, bow or pruning saws, etc that they no longer need we will be most grateful for them.

As we improve our different sites, the workload required to maintain paths and hedges is in danger of being insufficient. We are most grateful to volunteers like Bill McDougall and Paul Jewitt who have “adopted” Summerhill and Fosseyway and keep those paths clear, mostly on weekdays.



This column reports work by Scout Groups from time to time. I am pleased to report that 1st Burntwood Scouts have spent two Monday evenings with me: on 3rd October for a history and heritage walk along the whole of the Tamworth Road section; on 10th October, and working by street lamp and torch light, they did amazing work on Falkland Road cutting the grass on the bund and getting brambles off the fence. Huge thanks to them and their leaders.

In the first two weeks of November, I am expecting 420 saplings to be delivered by The Woodland Trust. I am scheduling a mass planting session on Saturday, 19th November, and probably another date. Watch out for Facebook announcements nearer the time and help us if you can, to reach over 6000 whips having been planted in the last seven years!

Volunteer hours to date this year: Total 1104; of which DoF E: 782; Adults: 322.

Thanks to you all.

Christine Bull (Grounds / Green Team)

Copy Date for the next issue is 2nd January.

WORK PARTY REPORT (JULY-SEPTEMBER)

As I write this, the high temperatures that we've been faced with seem all but a distant memory. Even at 8am it was 20.C and reached over 30.C by early afternoon. It's been difficult to work in this sort of extreme heat and we have probably made smaller levels of progress over the hot months, but we have managed to proceed on a number of fronts at Tamworth Road.

Firstly, some progress with the north wall, which has been rather static over the last couple of months, because we had reached the first of three inspection chambers on the 'big pipe'. The team managed to effectively integrate the front wall of the inspection chamber into the new north wall and to complete the soldier courses atop of the new wall. For a short while it did look like we had constructed a replica WW2 pillbox, as the photo shows, but the following day a final course of bricks sealed up the



chamber once more.

Within the former Lock chamber we continued to cast a new floor and came across both the old Lock 24 invert and also the remains of the centre supporting brick buttress of the lock's south wall.



Across on the new south wall Roger and co have continued to extend it, thanks to an almost continuous source of imported and cleaned bricks by Bill Beresford,



There is now a plan to add an intermediate intersecting wall on the towpath. It will join up with the higher-level path. We need to do this because as we pass the cottage there simply isn't the width to have the towpath at the level of the canal and grade it back up to the adjacent land level. So a wall at 1 in 16 will join up with the current path, level with the cottage, and mean that we won't have to excavate quite so much soil either. Once past the cottage we will need to get the path back down to canal height again as we will have to fit mooring rings on the approach to the new Lock 24, which will be just after Cricket Lane.



Meanwhile the former historic by-wash has continued to pose a further integration challenge. The plan has been to underpin the corner with concrete. Rick then tidied up the brickwork which would originally have been below ground and added a bit of brickwork to cover the concrete buttress before Hugh's dry-stone wall covers up the bottom section of concrete pier.

We also plan to break out the bricks sealing the former by-wash pipe, so that as you walk down the towpath the average adult will be at the correct height to see in through the hole, to the three arches previously constructed by Rick, and the original weir wall. This will certainly create a talking point for future boaters who will no doubt be confused as to its original design purpose.

Elsewhere there has been the usual summer projects—attempting to stem nature's challenge—the growth of bracken, gorse and blackberry threatens to reclaim the areas of towpath and canal sections not currently in water. Members of both plant maintenance and workparty teams have supplemented the Green Team at various locations over August.

A small team has been involved in work at Darnford Moors, to create access for future work and to carry out some ground investigation works. We'll tell you more about this as work progresses.

Michael Babb

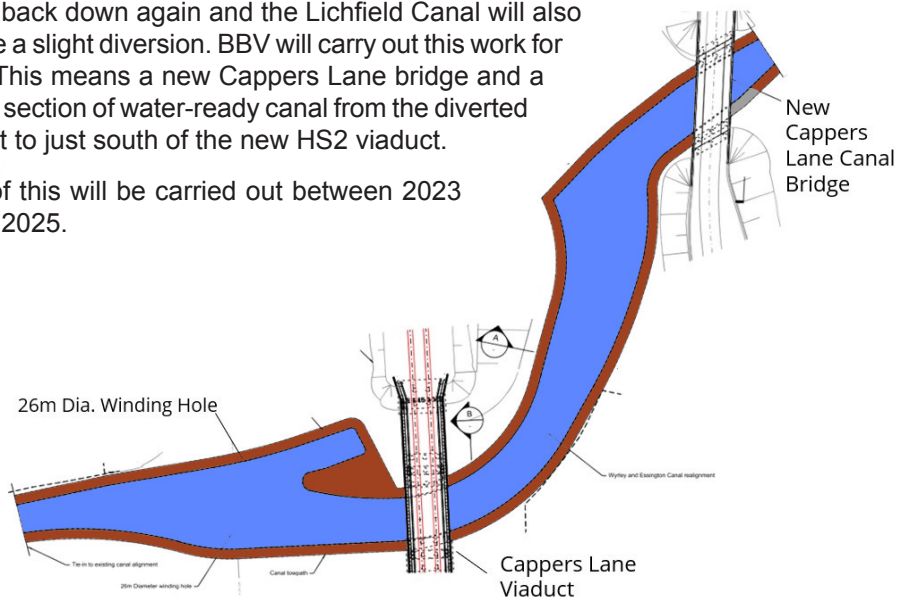
The views expressed in Cut Both Ways do not necessarily represent those of the Trust or the Editor. They are however published as being of interest to our readership.



Those of you who came to our AGM in the summer saw the presentation by Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV) about the work they will be carrying out for us as part of the HS2 works.

Sadly, the route of HS2 clashes with our Cappers Lane Bridge built in 2005/6 using ERDF funding ... so the bridge will have to go. On the plus side HS2 is giving more than it's taking away. As part of the work, Cappers Lane will be diverted to the North and back down again and the Lichfield Canal will also have a slight diversion. BBV will carry out this work for us. This means a new Cappers Lane bridge and a new section of water-ready canal from the diverted point to just south of the new HS2 viaduct.

All of this will be carried out between 2023 and 2025.





One donation = twice the impact

Tuesday 29 November to Tuesday 6 December

This year's Big Give Christmas Challenge will go live on 29 November and we're aiming to raise £18,750 in just one week—to put towards the cost of the new liftbridge near Longbridge Road.

Donations received during the week will be matched by our supporting pledgers, meaning your money will go twice as far:

Donations during Big Give week = £18,750

Our pledgers match the donations so we raise £37,500

Things to remember:

- All donations up to a total of £18,750 will be doubled.
- Donations received after the target amount is reached will still be gratefully received but will not be doubled.
- The only way to donate is online.
- Anyone who pledges towards the campaign, cannot donate.
- Sadly we weren't chosen for champion funding, so our official target is lower than hoped, but we are allowed to receive donations above this figure.

Visit

www.lhcrt.org.uk/biggive-2022.html

to make a donation between Noon on Tuesday 29 November 2022 to Noon on Tuesday 6 December.

Thank you!

Christine Hawles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

THE SECOND BROWNHILLS CANAL FESTIVAL



Our second Brownhills Canal Festival was a hugely successful weekend in so many ways and lots of boats on the seldom-used Wyrley and Essington Canal through Brownhills. We

Thanks to everyone who came and made it such a success.

THE SECOND BROWNHILLS CANAL FESTIVAL



ys – lovely weather, lots of people, plenty of money raised for the Trust and the traders,
e heard that the people living by the canalside were thanking the boaters as they passed.
ch a joy! We see you again 19-20 August 2023.

EVENTS ROUND UP

Our second Brownhills Canal Festival was a hugely successful weekend in so many ways – lovely weather, lots of people, plenty of money raised for the Trust and the traders, and lots of boats on the seldom-used Wyrley and Essington Canal through Brownhills. We heard that the people living by the canalside were thanking the boaters as they passed.

We were back at the Lichfield 10k water station after a couple years' break, we get a donation for our help at this event, and then spent a day at the beautiful Middleton Hall Autumn Fair.



Later in September we attended the Support Staffs Volunteers' fair in Lichfield cathedral and were pleased to sign up some new blood!



Upcoming events

Our final event of the year will be our 'Christmas carols and mulled wine' at Borrowcop Locks on 17 December at 8pm. It's a free event but donations will be welcomed.

All of these events are vital to raise awareness, raise money and attract new volunteers. In fact, we did have to give our apologies for some of the events we'd been invited to, as we really do need more people to join our events team.

If you live locally and can spare a few hours every now and then, please do get in touch!

Christine Howles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

Paul Marshall

Our resident IT expert, photographer and video maker, and webmaster.

Previous career: broadcast transmitter engineer for the BBC World Service including in the Caribbean, and then at Sutton Coldfield maintaining radio and television transmitters all over the Midlands.

Paul said: "I have no qualifications in any of this but it pleases me that my talents—such as they are—can be used to make even a small difference to the Trust."



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

None of us like to think about it, but we all need to ensure our wills are up to date.

Your loved ones come first, but when you make, or update, your will please consider a gift to us. Gifts in wills are a huge help to us and you'd be leaving a lasting legacy.

You can choose to leave a specific sum of money or a share of what's left of your estate (after your family, friends and perhaps other charities have been taken care of). You could also name a particular item in your will; for example, a boat or a piece of jewellery or even some land.



And, if you have already written your will, you can make a provision for a legacy to LHCRT by adding a codicil to your existing will.

Find out more on our website or contact us for a codicil form.

www.lhcrt.org.uk/gift-in-will.html

Christine Hawles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

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

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!

The nature of volunteering means that as life changes, we sometimes lose valuable members of our team.

We have recently said a fond farewell to Luke Walker who has been our IWA rep on the Board as well as planning director since 2016 and vice chair for the last five. Luke has been living away from the area for some time but is now moving even further away and has decided to call it a day with us.

We wish him all the best for the future and a huge thank you for all his work on planning applications, reading huge documents such as local plans to make sure the canal route is protected and much more!

Thanks also to Sharon Oliphant, who has been our health and safety advisor for two and a half years, and has decided to move on to other things.



HUDDLESFORD BEAR ON TOUR

Avid readers of our last issue will have seen we have a new mascot, Mr Huddlesford Bear, who is one of our teddy bear members (see issue 112 page 14).

As a quick recap he is called Huddlesford as that's where his owners found him, sitting on a post looking very muddy and sorry for himself. Now he's our mascot and has been visiting us to see our work for himself.



In this issue you'll see several photos of him on his travels. Can you spot them all? You can also follow his exploits on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag **#HuddlesfordsMission**. Where will he visit next, before he goes home to his owners at the end of the year?

Christine Hawles, (Marketing & Communications Trustee)

Stephen Pitt, 1957 – 2022

It is sad to report losing one of our very early members, Stephen Pitt who died at home after a long illness on 15th June 2022, aged 65. In succession to John Morris as instigator of "Cut Both Ways" in 1993, Stephen became the editor from Edition No. 11 in Spring 1997, continuing without a break to Edition 57 in Autumn 2008 when the baton passed to Stefan Szulc, our present editor.



There have been only three editors spanning nearly 30 years since Stephen developed the earlier "Newsletter" into a magazine which has kept its distinctive style to inform members of the expanding coverage of restoration progress, interesting articles, funding prospects, and much more. With its modern online derivative, "Cut Both Ways" now promotes the Trust to what has become a global readership for which we can thank Stephen for setting the pace through those early years.

Bernal Miner, 1930 – 2021

We look back with thanks to the late Bernal Miner, a member since 2000 who generously bequeathed £5,000 to our Trust, and similarly to the BCN Society. Raised in Walsall, he moved to York at the age of 20 to work in York City Council mainly in the Paymasters Department but never forgot his roots and retained his Black Country accent and his love of the canals where he was brought up.



Norman Blears, 1934 – 2022

As a former resident in Shortbutts Lane, Lichfield, his house backed onto the canal which led him to support our Trust since 1997 and regularly maintained a local interest. Whilst not a family man himself, after moving to Bournemouth in 1970, his neighbours in Lichfield were 'family' to him. A carpenter by trade, he applied himself to helping others, particularly through wildlife activities and a railway preservation group in his adopted environment in Dorset. These proved to be his overwhelming interests in bequeathing his estate, when it is realised, equally between the Dorset Wildlife Trust and Lichfield and Hatherton Canals.



Lichfield Canal, Darnford Moors Ecology Park



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND



It is good news for Habitat Improvements on the disused Lichfield Canal eastern section by Darnford Lane with project funding secured for £103,000. Jointly, European Regional Development Fund [ERDF] has approved a grant of £41,200 with match funding from HS2 Community and Environment Fund [CEF] of £61,800, topped up to £75,000 towards providing a water supply.

Since April 2022, our Expressions of Interest evolved steadily through months of deliberation on precise details of methods and costs against tight timescales to complete specific environmental criteria by February 2023. Our own team and visiting youth and corporate volunteer groups have been clearing the overgrown site, preparing Darnford Brook wetlands and access to the woodland with its rare feature of derelict Lock 29. As an experienced Project Manager, Chris Smith of Bluetech Waterfront Solutions Ltd has been commissioned to engage specialist contractors for the heavy work to include putting the canal channel east of the lift bridge in water, serving as an Aquatic Habitat.



Building communities. Transforming lives.

As we go to press, it is hoped that our application for a BIFFA Award grant of £250,000 for similar environmental outcomes will be approved to extend the work through 2023 by restoring the remaining channel in water to Darnford Lane.

Other prospects

Staffordshire County and Lichfield District Councils will require more time to deal with land, planning and funding formalities before work can be fully approved for the Lichfield Canal in Zones B and C alongside Falkland Road.

The long-running Tunnel Vision Appeal, primarily aimed at creating a canal tunnel through the Birmingham Railway line embankment, is suffering longer delays than we would like. The original funding appeal included any of the many roads which the Lichfield Canal must cross. This option must now be considered as an alternative to achieve an outcome sooner with the railway tunnel coming later when other local developments are more advanced.

The Big Give Appeal for December is in progress as explained elsewhere in this edition, aiming to raise the funds for constructing a pedestrian lift-bridge for the path over the canal, connecting Tamworth Road and Longbridge Road.

Bob Williams, Director (Finance Director)



We congratulate the Lichfield Branch of the Inland Waterways Association, for their Best Branch Award presented by National Chairman Les Etheridge (right) to Lichfield Branch Chairman Peter Gurney at the IWA AGM, held in the Lichfield Guildhall on 24th September 2022.

In the citation, the Branch was commended for its strong team who work in conjunction with Canal & River Trust to cut back the off-side vegetation once a week over the winter months. Their Planning Officer (Phil Sharpe) responds to 200+ planning matters per year and is the lead on HS2 for IWA. The branch has close links and donates money to all the canal restoration societies in their area. Several branch members man the national IWA sales and recruiting stand at various venues around the country: Crick Boat Show, Festival of Water and Canalway Cavalcade. Members actively recruit new supporters for IWA within their branch area and have regular monthly meetings over the wintertime. They also organise walks at least 6 times per year for members and non-members, and publish an interesting branch magazine every quarter. Above all, the members of Lichfield Branch enjoy themselves!

In the afternoon, members of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust organised a conducted walk over the Darnford Moors Ecology Park site where Engineering Director Peter Buck explained the work being undertaken for the combined grants-funded Habitat Improvements project.

Bob Williams, Director (Finance Director)

Christmas is coming and we have a great range of gifts on offer.

Order from www.lhcrt.org.uk/shop or phone 01543 671427.



Reusable cups (350ml)

£7



Handmade planters

80 litre: £120

120 litre: £150

Made to order - delivery can take up to 10 days.



Bucket hats

£12

(baseball caps and beanies are currently out of stock but contact us if you would like one)



Wishful Thinking paintings

**Prices range from £20 to
£40**

Lichfield or Hatherton Canal -
view the options on our website



Photo scene mugs

£6

Fosseyway 'oss
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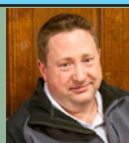
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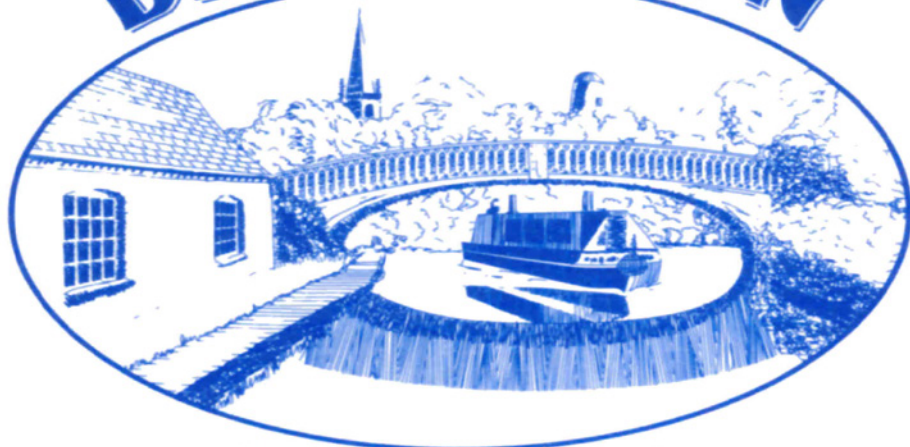
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