

CUT BOTH WAYS

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust



"Rose Willow" by Tamworth Road, Lichfield
with Christmas lights added by Peter Buck.

Issue No. 98
Winter 2018/9



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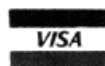
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We are in the national media! Watch out in March for BBC2's early evening programme "Britain in Bloom", because one of the half hour programmes is on Lichfield.

Because of our work with youngsters I am pretty confident that LHCRT will predominate, and we had a number of filming visits through the summer of 2018. (Publicity until now was embargoed by the producers). Also, The Observer of 6 January featured the importance of canal restoration in the country, and specifically included LHCRT as an exemplar!

We have also been "up in lights" in other ways: our Christmas lights on the mock up narrow boat on Tamworth Road (Rose Willow) and at Gallows Wharf have delighted folk over the holiday period and have more than kept our top spot among canal restoration groups for social media coverage.

Remaining with the Christmas theme, we had a superb volunteers Christmas dinner at Darnford Moors Golf Club for over 65 people. We all paid for ourselves, though we invited some special guests from Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd and Clarke Construction Ltd in recognition of the invaluable support they give. Right now, a 13ton excavator and large dumper are being returned to Chasetown Civil Engineering, having been lent to us for over two weeks, and back in November Grasmere Garden Centre (owned by Clarke Construction) gave us a stand at its Christmas Craft Fair.

Work at Fosseway is fully reported elsewhere in this edition, but it is worth my adding that the additional equipment, along with the fact that our superb volunteers have been on site every day except Christmas Day, has meant that massive progress has been made in the last few weeks – and progress before that was already impressive!

For the second year we held a Carol Singing event on 22 December, this time at Gallows Wharf, attended by well over 60 people. Mulled wine and mince pies were served—thanks to Hunnypot Cottage, May Brown, Coop, and Tesco – and all were in good voice! Our thanks also to our very new neighbours at Gallows Wharf, who kindly allowed us to power some lighting from their house even though they could hardly have unpacked their boxes having only moved in a few days before! Donations and sales of our merchandise raised £155.

So far, this article has mostly taken a Christmas theme; back in October the Trust's Autumn Show was a record breaker for attendance and fundraising, and thanks are very much due to the Bryan and Eland families. We do need more support for events, so if you think you can help please let us know.

Chris Bull, (Chairperson)

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 7)

My background is in planning, in industry, in Further Education and with the organisations I've worked with abroad. When I took on the Chairmanship I innocently asked whether we shouldn't update the Strategic Plan the more I am involved, the more I understand how difficult that is.

The key difference is that LHCRT has to find every penny with which to restore the canals. Our "bread and butter" income is membership fees, our annual quiz and seasonal shows, our annual raffle, the 500 Club. Only on these can we make an accurate assessment of income, and it falls very short of what we need. Unlike many other restoration projects we have no regular financial support, in either cash or kind, from local authorities.

Hence we have to submit bids to funding agencies. Long before Brexit, European funds in our area had dried up. The criteria for funds vary between the funding agencies and also over time. A few years ago the buzz words were "improving employability"; "transforming people's lives". Now it's more to do with "environmental / biodiversity improvements"; "intergenerational / youth activities"; "employment and economic growth". As to Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF), we have difficulty persuading them that even though the canals are a very significant part of our heritage the fact we have no buildings (i.e. above ground!) should not preclude us. We will keep battling that one, especially as new rules are coming in for West Midlands HLF.

Necessarily then, we work where we have succeeded in getting funding. In recent years, the acquisition of and subsequent work at Summerhill (The Boat Inn to the M6Toll aqueduct) was financed by a £336,000 grant from SIB; restoration of Gallows Wharf in 2018 was greatly assisted by a Staffordshire County Councillor's grant of £1,850; the Fosseway Heath Nature Reserve and Wetlands project 2017/8 has been significantly funded by the Postcode Local Trust grant of £18,500. In all these cases, we submit funding bids and wait several months to hear whether we are successful or not. When we are successful, as in the above examples, there is always a time limit within which the funds must be spent; and always more to do than is covered by the grants.

I hope that explains the financial factors which can make our work look "piecemeal and unplanned". Overlay onto the financial factors other things that make planning in our business subject to last minute changes and possible further impressions of "piecemeal".

In the last year, the urgent need to remove the 11 precast concrete tunnel sections from Hazel Lane Colliery: the Trust had known that at some stage that site was likely to get planning permission, and it is most grateful to the Misra Brothers for the many years for which they gave us free storage. Obviously, once we received notice that we had to move them we had to decide where they were going and prepare the site to be able to not just provide storage space but more critically to ensure that all civil engineering calculations were accurate such that the site was safe for such heavy craneage. Also, we needed them (a) on our land, to avoid any storage costs and (b) ideally close to where we will use them – in this case to get under Darnford Lane.

So, another possibly seeming "piecemeal project". While we had work parties and machines at Darnford Lane it was sensible to pick up on other unfinished work there, too, but without any specific funding.

Mention of "Darnford": why have we abandoned Darnford Park work? Very simply because we have been required to do so by Lichfield District Council since our planning application for the work there, which included the A51 and A38 crossings, was strongly objected to by Highways England (HE). Even though we resubmitted without the A38 tunnel, HE then raised questions (which it had not done in the original planning application) about the A51 crossing. Queries raised by local residents about increased noise from the A38 further fuelled HE's antipathy fingers crossed, and after many, many hours of emails, conversations and gritting of teeth by our stalwart, but behind the scenes experts, we hope we are about to resolve that and be able to resume work when funding allows.

The footpath over the M6 Toll aqueduct: the processes of seeking planning permission and registering our land with Land Registry have brought up some issues. Midland Expressway Ltd will require a raising of the parapets (more significant costs) and there are some very small parcels of land which require that we agree very precise boundaries. Much as we want to make that link to Brownhills for the community benefit our fundraising and bureaucracy negotiating priorities right now must be with the other sites.

On "behind the scenes": planning applications which affect where and when we work are not just our applications. Currently, we are battling with a particular housing development which could result in a massive cost to LHCRT; we are working closely with Staffordshire Highways to ensure that we have the canal tunnel under the Cross City railway; our land and water specialist Officers have spent many hours and much head scratching to ensure that a commercial development in Cannock could not be allowed to jeopardise canal restoration.

And then there's The Environment Agency (EA)! Why can't we get water in Pound 25 now that it is almost completely restored? We cannot remove the "Big Pipe" until EA allows us to do so. The Big Pipe was installed in late 1960's on abandonment of the canal along much of its route through Lichfield. It predominantly takes the "grey water" or road wash which previously ran in to the canal. Another bureaucratic battle!

As to the perennial question "when will it be finished?". The answer is that if someone or some organisation gives us £40M we could be finished in 5 years! In all sincerity, I hope this explains that what might seem unplanned and piecemeal work is far from it. I will be delighted to meet with anyone who wants to find out more;

I'll be even more delighted if anyone offers her / his professional expertise in any of the fields that I trust this article has highlighted.

They are notably: legal aspects, planning aspects; civil engineering; finance, and writing funding bids.

Chris Bull, (Chairperson)

DONATIONS TO THE TRUST

Donations to the Trust: 1st October to 31st December 2018

Donations during this period from individuals and groups, plus ancillary items, totalled £22,408 including those to the Tunnel Vision Appeal plus Gift Aid tax claims for UK taxpayers who completed the required formalities.

Other assistance

Site work support was given by the following, listed in alphabetical order:-

- Amey (by SCC Highways) visiting volunteer team work at Fossey Heath.
- Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd loan of site machinery.
- Jaguar Land Rover, multiple visiting volunteer teams at Fossey Heath.
- Laing Murphy visiting volunteer teams at Fossey Heath.
- 7th Lichfield Scout group - volunteer activities.
- Queens' Croft High School, Lichfield, regular volunteer teams.
- TSB, Lichfield Branch, staff fund-raising activities.
- Waterway Recovery Group, November event volunteer teams.

All such donations, however large or small, are most gratefully received by the Trust to help us with our restoration work. We recognise that all our supporters give what they are able, reflecting the value they put on our work for the community. Because of this, and the wish of some to remain anonymous, we no longer publish names of individual donors and amounts.

Our sincere thanks to all.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to announce the loss of the following members:-

Mr Alan F. Taylor, Lichfield, died 20th September 2018.

Mr Harry Arnold MBE, Alrewas, died 1st November 2018.

Dr Ian M. Thompson, Kingswinford, died 2nd January 2019.

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.**

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Once again we would like to thank all those members who add an extra donation to their membership fee when they renew. We regard this as a better solution than increasing membership fees, which would take no account of individual members' ability to pay and furthermore would involve around 600 members being asked to change their bank standing orders. Thank you again for your generosity.

In short – we need you. Please stay with the Trust and please pay when you receive your reminder.

Introducing our new membership secretary



We're excited to introduce you to Brian Williams, our new membership secretary. Brian has volunteered with our workparties for just over two years and is our volunteer liaison officer, he is also a member of the clergy in his "spare" time.

He recently took on the role of membership secretary after Godfrey Eland stepped down from the position.

We'd like to thank Brian for joining the "admin" team as well as the heavy brigade. We'd also like to thank Godfrey for all his work as our previous membership secretary.

See page 30 for Brian's contact details.

Welcome to New Members – 1st October to 31st December 2018

Mrs P Male, Aldridge
Mr J Barber, Stafford
Mr S Booth, Newark
Mrs S Clift, Mavesyn Ridware
Ms D Baker, Lichfield
Messrs C & N Misra, Cannock

Mr T Cartwright, Brownhills
Mr S Whitehouse, Burntwood
Mr S Planck, Lichfield
Mr C Barrington, Walsall
Mr S Palmer, Lichfield
Mr R Horton, Lichfield

Membership Total at **31st December** :- 1849

(Comprising 322 Adult, 936 Family, 209 Life, 388 Retired, 5 Other)

Membership rates are:

Adult £10; Family £15; Junior (under 18), Student, Retired or Unemployed £6;
Group (Clubs & Societies) £25; Small Business £100,
Large Corporate £200; Life Membership £200,
Family Life Membership £300 (includes children up to age 18).

To join, please contact the Membership Secretary (see above),
view our website www.lhcrt.org.uk or email members@lhcrt.org.uk

"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.

The number of subscriptions eligible for the December draw was 227. A rise in numbers will mean an increase in the contribution to the Capital Fund and the amount of prize money to be won. Anyone can subscribe, you don't have to be a LHCRT member.

Membership renewal notices will be issued in February. Why not take a few more numbers to increase your chance of winning four times a year.

Completing our Bankers Order will make it easier for you stay in the Draw and reduce our bank charges. The Trust would like to thank all the subscribers for their continuing support.

So please spread the word.

The winners of the December 2018 draw are:

First prize £ 177.06 No 200 Peter Oakden, Atherstone, Warks.

Second prize £ 115.77 No 96 G L Wilson, Walsall.

Third prize £ 47.67 No 212 Mrs P J Heath, Bamford, Derbys.

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:

1 st Prize	£400	approximately 26% income
2 nd Prize	£250	approximately 17% income
3 rd 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.lhcrt.org.uk. Pending appointing a new administrator, please contact Bob Williams, Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane, Hammerwich, Burntwood, WS7 0JP

(advertisement)



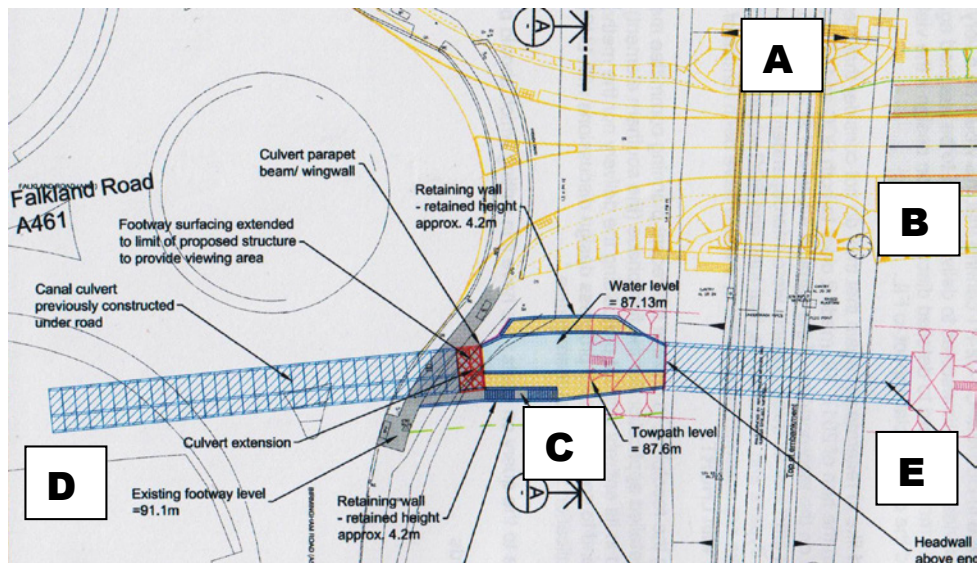
Michael Fabricant MP

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)

DAVID SUCHET TUNNEL VISION £1M APPEAL PROGRESS



A Cross-City railway track. B Southern bypass.

C Open channel between the culvert and tunnel.

D Birmingham Road canal culvert built in 2007.

E Canal tunnel under the railway to be built by 2020.



Taken together, these structures are expected to cost £1.5million with one built and £0.5million net of design costs in hand, **so there is still 1/3rd to find urgently.**

The David Suchet Appeal has received nearly 1,000 donations from all over the UK with time running out to raise the full cost to engage contractors in the early part of 2019. With the shortening horizon, detailed engineering design will ascertain a real cost in relation to the adjacent bypass works. Also we are making enquiries for any post-Brexit regional funding that might become available.

<http://www.lhcrt.org.uk/tunnel-vision.html>



Lichfield's canal trust has received a donation from an association representing traders afloat on Britain's waterways.

The Roving Canal Traders Association (RCTA) is a non profit-making organisation run to help support and promote the diverse array of existing and potential Canal and River Trust (CRT) registered roving traders.

Bob Williams (second right), Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust's financial director, receives a cheque for £200 from Roving Canal Traders Association PR and communications volunteer Julie Tonkin, while RCTA treasurer Andrew Mills (left) presents a cheque, also for £200, to Canal and River Trust engagement manager for the West Midlands, Bashir Ahmed.

Any profit made by the RCTA is donated to charity and each year members vote on which charities should benefit.

This year's beneficiaries were Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust and the CRT who were invited to attend the RCTA floating Christmas market held at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham to receive their cheques.

The money donated to LHCRT will go towards the Trust's Tunnel Vision appeal, a campaign to raise £1million to install a tunnel under the Cross-City railway line.

The Trust hopes to build the canal culvert at the same time as a bridge carrying the railway line is put over the planned Lichfield Southern Bypass, probably in late 2019.

More than half of the £1million target has already been raised.

For more details on the David Suchet Tunnel Vision appeal, please visit: <https://lhcr.org.uk/tunnel-vision.html>.

Side by side map views

The link below directs to our map page where the National Library of Scotland's side-by-side maps can be accessed. Old maps are lined up with current maps of our canal.

<https://www.lhcr.org.uk/lichfieldcanalmaps.htm>



Who can forget the start of 2018? Let me remind you. The concrete culvert sections to be moved from storage at Great Wyrley to Darnford Lane! The blizzard weather conditions on the days that it was all planned for! The huge 350 tonne crane that got stuck down on the M1 motorway and came too late in the day to carry out it's task! You cannot have forgotten all this drama? It would make good reading in some fictional novel if it wasn't all true. In the end, everything got

sorted, the concrete culvert sections were safely loaded. The convoy of low-loader haulage trucks made it safely to Darnford Lane, and the crane successfully off-loaded these sections into the prepared canal base. Here they still remain awaiting our chance (probably when the HS2 workings nearby are started) to utilise them to provide the tunnel under Darnford Lane.

With work now at a standstill at the Darnford Moors site, and also down the length of Tamworth Road, our efforts for 2018 were concentrated at two sites, Gallows Wharf, just off the London Road bridge, and The Fosseway Site.



At Gallows Wharf the walls of the original structure were dug out starting by the London Road bridge. The original wharf walls then disappeared beneath the adjacent garages, so a new wharf wall had to be provided. Gallows Wharf became a priority project and was progressed enthusiastically throughout the spring and summer. Walls were built, flower beds established, and all things you would expect to find on a wharf sourced and/or made. Nearby, on

Tamworth Road, a replica 70ft. canal boat was built out of willow whips and wooden crates. The flower beds at the Wharf were planted, as also was the replica canal boat bedecked with flowering plants. All this effort to impress the judges of the Lichfield in Bloom Competition. This project proved to be a huge success, Lichfield in Bloom gained a second successive Gold Award.

In some ways Gallows Wharf was a distraction from where the majority of our efforts were being spent this year. That of course was at our Fosseway site. This stretch of the canal lies between Falkland Road to the east and to Fosseway Lane in the west. The trust had been granted money by the People's Post Code Lottery to provide a wetlands area and boardwalk where the original towpath had been lost

into the adjoining field. This relatively small scheme then extended and expanded into a major restoration throughout the whole of this length from Falkland Road to Fosseyway. The original towpath wall is being rebuilt for about half the total length of this stretch and, as of now, is about 80% completed. The canal, as it approaches Falkland Road, has to do a sharp right-hand bend for it to continue southwards. To enable a 70ft narrowboat to navigate such a sharp bend, a large Pound is being constructed. Huge volumes of soil and sand have been excavated to establish this pound, as also have embankments to contain it been build alongside Falkland Road and alongside the disused railway embankment.

The wetlands area has been established and the boardwalk built made of recycled plastic for it's supports and walkway boards.

Corporate volunteers from many sources helped build footpaths heading towards The Fosseyway during the year. The "Wergies" have given us many hours and days labour when they have cut back hedgerows and overhanging trees to name but a few of the tasks they undertook. And most recently we have had loan of heavy construction plant over the Christmas/ New Year period. Having this plant available has enabled us to start removing all the debris and other infill from the canal bed as we get nearer to Fosseyway Lane. A gang of skilled dumper and excavator driver volunteers made themselves available over this Festive period for which we are truly grateful.

And so another year has passed, this restoration seems to be gathering even more momentum. The demand for more resources grows as does the demand on our volunteers to do ever more work. This coming year will be much the same if not more so. Particularly with the advent of the tunnel under the cross city railway line in December 2019, but at least that will be done by contractors.

Thanks to all for 2018, and I look forward to 2019. Hard work it may well be, but certainly not boring.

You, our volunteers are the life blood of this restoration.

Hugh Millington, Work Parties (Lichfield)



**Staffordshire Birdseye View
Photography**



Our young volunteers have probably been most responsible for Grounds/Green work in the last few months. As reported in the last CBW, one of 7th Lichfield Scout Group Cub Packs cleared the growth and shook the seeds out of some of the wild flower beds on Tamworth Road in September and the others have now been done by either Queen's Croft students or our regular Saturday work parties. Fingers crossed, they will thrive this summer!



A second Cub Pack from 7th Lichfield joined us on 13 October and enthusiastically cleaned and stacked bricks from the old canal wall at Fosseyway and infilled behind the newly built wall with soil. We look forward to more sessions with both 7th Lichfield and Foresters Scout Group when the clocks have changed!

Queen's Croft students have also planted 105 saplings donated to Lichfield Rotary Club by The Woodland Trust in the gaps along Borrowcop Locks and also to create a boundary hedge near the wetlands and board walks at Fosseyway. And our own application to The Woodland Trust for 420 mixed woodland and hedging saplings has been approved and will be delivered early March. So, look out for appeals to help with mass planting sessions in the middle weekends of March!



As reported elsewhere, every day the topography of Fosseyway changes! Until all the earth works are done we cannot do any planting on what we plan as new lowland heath land, but a token gesture has been made near the Falkland Road entrance. There are five small beds with a gorse bush and, mice and weather permitting, you should see a variety of spring bulbs giving some colour before long.

Our Grounds/Green leader, Roger has spent the last few months on the wall at Fosseyway taking advantage of non frosty weather. Now that the temperature has dropped he's back to hedge-laying between Lock 18 and Fosseyway Lane. So, we are back to fires!

Christine Bull (Grounds / Green Team)



We are saddened to report the death of Harry Arnold MBE on 1st November, following a stroke almost three weeks earlier. Harry was well known as a waterways journalist, author and photographer who has been instrumental in many waterway campaigns since the late 1950s. Harry had been a member of both N Staffs & S Cheshire and Lichfield branches and his daughter Julie is a committee member.

Harry was awarded an MBE in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours List for the significant role he played in Britain's inland waterways scene for almost 50 years. This included being a founder member of Waterway Recovery Group

and editing IWA's Waterways magazine from 1990 to 2007; Harry carried out many other voluntary roles within IWA and in 2008 was appointed a national Vice President.

Being central to setting up the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port, now the National Waterways Museum, he energetically supported many other waterway projects. As a professional journalist, editor and photographer Harry was a regular contributor to boating magazines. In 1972 he was one of the founder owners of best-selling Waterways World; most recently Harry was retained to write for the free distribution newspaper Towpath Talk – the largest circulation waterway publication.

Harry's WATERWAY IMAGES archive and digital photographs have appeared in countless publications and also TV programmes. Harry himself appeared on screen in programmes such as BBC's Golden Age of Canal and he spent the summer of 2018 filming along the Montgomery Canal relating stories from the campaign and "Big Dig" that started its restoration for a forthcoming video.

At the 2015 Canal & River Trust 'Living Waterway Awards' – which "seek to recognise the most inspiring and exciting waterway-based improvement projects across the UK" – Harry was presented with the first 'Outstanding Personal Achievement Award'. Tony Hales, then Chairman of CRT, said: "Harry was awarded an MBE for the significant role he has played in recording, conserving and promoting the country's rich waterway heritage. This Outstanding Achievement award further recognises the enormous contribution he has made to helping make the waterways what they are today."

(Courtesy of IWA Head Office)

FOSSEWAY BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES



FOSSEWAY BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES



SINGING FOR SWINFEN HALL AND AT GALLOW'S WHARF

The Trust was invited to create a choir to sing at Swinfen Hall at a special lunch in December.



It turns out that we have a considerable amount of musical talent amongst us and we were able to field an impressive number of really good singers, including Mike and May Brown, who sing in a church choir; Peter Buck, who was a chorister when a school boy; Bob Williams

with his Welsh roots and Cliff Bull our own Christmas Carols leader, with his fine voice.

By the time the great day dawned we were ready for a rehearsal with Swinfen's fabulous pianist, Chris Langdon ahead of our debut performance.

We sang many old favourites including "O Come all ye Faithful" and "Away in a Manger" and found ourselves with a very nice audience. Paul Marshall recorded our performance and a couple of carols can be seen on our Facebook page

"[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LichfieldandHathertonCanalRestorationTrust/videos)

[LichfieldandHathertonCanalRestorationTrust/videos.](https://www.facebook.com/LichfieldandHathertonCanalRestorationTrust/videos)"



Thanks go to all the staff at Swinfen, especially Beth Hancock who arranged for us to sing and all the staff who kept us well fed with festive mince pies and hydrated with hot and cold drinks. We also want to thank Chris Langdon for all his help and patience.

After the singing Stuart Kennedy, the hotel manager, presented Bob Williams with a generous donation from the hotel for our efforts (photo left), so it was a very worthwhile and enjoyable few hours. It also helped prepare us for our own carols evening at Gallows Wharf.

Hot on the heels of our successful choir at Swinfen Hall Hotel, we held our second annual carols evening at Gallows Wharf, complete with Christmas Tree and lights and of course mulled wine and festive snacks. Cliff Bull led the singing and the acoustics at the wharf made it a lovely atmospheric evening, with around £155 taken in donations.

Huge thanks go to Tesco Lichfield, Co-op Fradley and volunteers Aileen Salter, Christine Howles and Dennis Seal for supplying the mulled wine, and to May Brown, Dennis (again) and Ruth from Hunnypot Cottage for supplying the delicious snacks.

Dora Hancock



Our Lichfield Canal Blooming Volunteer Gardeners have continued to tend the Gardens of Reflection at Gallows Wharf since helping to win the Gold Ward for 2018 Blooming Lichfield in the Summer.

The flower beds, particularly the Herkenrode Glass crate have been replanted with sustainable winter plants and bulbs for next Spring.

An encapsulated copy of the Gold Award 2018 Certificate is on display on the Towpath wall for all to see.

We thank all the Volunteers and Friends of the Trust who have made this display a reality.

Peter Buck, (Engineering)

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Ruth Redgate



LHCRT presents:



Quiz Night



A Fun Quiz Night

With Question Master

Godfrey Eland

Saturday 16th March 2019

Doors open 7.00 pm to start the Quiz at 7.30 pm prompt

Boley Park Community Hall, 7 Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU

(Next to the Co-op Store - plenty of free parking)

Non-members welcome. Teams of 6 - 8 are suggested.
Smaller teams and individuals are very welcome but may be combined to fill a table.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets £6.00 per person

Must book by 4th March

For tickets apply to:

Sue Williams

Norfolk House, 29 Hall Lane
Hammerwich,
Burntwood, Staffs.
WS7 0JP

...or book online at:

www.LHCRT.org.uk/quiz.htm



Email: suzi_williams@hotmail.com

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust

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Staffordshire Birdseye View Photography



While you were enjoying your Christmas / New Year Holiday break with the family, a team of Trust Volunteers turned out and carried out 14 days of work through the holiday period to progress the restoration of a key section of the Lichfield Canal at Fosseway Heath.

This restoration work was made possible with the kind loan of construction equipment from Chasetown Civil Engineering in the form of a 13tonne JCB excavator and a 6tonne dumper, which with the Trust own construction plant all of which were operated by our Trust trained volunteer machine operators.

The canal restoration work included clearing fill material from the old bed of the canal channel below Lock 18 and landscaping the adjacent north bank of the Lichfield Canal to form a new Nature Trail. The completion of these landscaping works will release further works for our volunteer teams throughout the rest of the year in finishing environmental enhancement works to the Nature Trail.

Whilst the Trust had this construction plant on site we took the opportunity to carry out further training of our volunteer operators in the key skills needed to operate Plant safely on site.

And while this was going on our Green Team carried out some Hedge Laying above Lock 18.

The section of completed work below the restored Lock 18, forms a key part of our planned programme of restoration work on the Fosseway Heath section this year, and will result in the existing Nature Trail and Towpath Walks being extended and complemented with further environmental features and will give better access for the community along new sections of the Heritage Towpath Trail of the Lichfield Canal.

Our thanks to our Trust volunteers who continue to put in so much and the loan of Plant from Chasetown Civil Engineering who helped to make the restoration of this section of the Lichfield Canal a reality.

Peter Buck, (Engineering Director)

VOLUNTEER ARMY BOOST FOR CANAL TRUST

An army of volunteers descended on Fosseway Heath to give a massive boost to the restoration of a section of the Lichfield Canal.

Around 70 Waterway Recovery Group volunteers from Dundee, Manchester, all over the Midlands, Port Talbot, London, Brighton and one from the Black Forest in Germany met for their annual reunion weekend, also known as the Bonfire Bash.



The WRG volunteers left a small team at Brownhills Community Centre which was the base for this camp, and this team provided the cooked food of hearty breakfasts and evening meals to keep the volunteers fed for all the hard work carried out.

Working with Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration

Trust's own volunteers, the 'Wergies' carried out many tasks at Fosseway Heath.



They began by clearing vegetation in the area of Fosseway Lane and from the restored Lock 18 and re-erecting some of the vandalised safety fencing, and also laid some of the old overgrown hedge along the towpath below Lock 18.

WRG forestry group volunteers set about lifting the crown of old oak trees on the off side to ensure these specimen trees can be retained in the final restoration plans for this section of the canal.

And on the south towpath wall between the new wetlands boardwalks feature and Falkland Road, a large contingent of bricklayer volunteers descended on the building blocks and recycled bricks to extend the towpath wall and the towpath towards the turning basin at Falkland Road.

LHCRT engineering director Peter Buck said: "The weekend was a great success and much was achieved to give a significant boost to the canal restoration work carried out by our own regular Trust volunteers.



“The goal of fully opening the South Heritage Towpath Trail through the Wetlands Boardwalk for the community moves ever closer.”

Two corporate teams then attended the Fosseway Heath site and made great improvements and progress on a new section of the restoration of the Valley Nature Trail.

The Trust's own volunteers helped corporate volunteers from Jaguar Land Rover and Laing Murphy JV in creating a new ramp stone access at the west end of the Valley Nature Trail near the steps across the canal and also extended the new Nature Trail some 50 metres towards Lock 18 on the north side.



Peter Buck said: “These works complete the path along the Valley Nature Trail on the north perimeter at Fosseway Heath, alongside the railway between Falkland Road and the steps and allow local community safe access while our restoration continues alongside the completed trail.”

Tom Reid, (Publicity Officer)

2018 accounts

Subject to professional examination for presentation to the AGM which will again be held at the Park View Centre in Brownhills on 7th June 2019, preliminary figures for last year are:-

Total resources brought forward	£787,921
Income	£180,338 (65% restricted)
	<u>£968,259</u>
Expenditure	(£161,079) (90% unrestricted)
Asset depreciation	<u>(£22,439)</u>
Total resources carried forward	<u>£784,741</u> (68% in monetary funds)

62% of resources are held in funds restricted to the purposes for which they were given, particularly for the Tunnel Vision Appeal, leaving little latitude aside from property for general expenditure. The Directors must apply funds at their discretion as necessary to maintain the Trust's work and to enable forward planning for further projects.

HUDDLESFORD HERITAGE GATHERING 2019

It's back! Huddlesford Heritage Gathering, run jointly with Lichfield Cruising Club, will return on 21st and 22nd September 2019, with historic boats, floating traders, private boats and classic vehicles, exhibitors and displays, music, entertainment, food and bar all day.

**Put the date in your diary and, if you're a boater,
book your place now.**

Visit: www.heritagegathering.uk



New online shop

We've launched our new online shop thanks to our webmaster Paul Marshall.

Not only does the shop show you all our gifts and show tickets, it has an easy to use checkout process and the postage is calculated according to your purchases. (Our old shop wasn't clever enough to do that.)

So visit www.lhcr.org.uk/shop or find the link from our homepage, and remember all proceeds from sales help us carry on with our work.

Events Listing 2019	
We're still finalising the events for this year, but here's what we have coming up so far.	
Event Date & Start Time	Event Description
16th March	Quiz Night, Boley Park Community Hall, WS14 9XU
20th April	Eric and Doreen's all-day Easter coffee morning.
6th May	Rushall May Fayre.
18-19th May	BCN Brownhills Canal Festival.
29-30 June	Braunston Show, Northamptonshire.
24-26th May	Crick Show, Northamptonshire.
7th June	AGM, Park View Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 7JB at 7.15 pm
19-21st July	Gnosall Canal Festival, on the Shropshire Union Canal
21-22nd September	Huddlesford Heritage Gathering
30th November	Autumn Show
To keep up to date with our events, visit: www.lhcr.org.uk/news/events.html or follow our events on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/LichfieldandHathertonCanalRestorationTrust/events/	

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.

Grand Prize Draw–2018

The response to our Annual Prize Draw last year was very encouraging with 3,677 tickets sold at £2 each, plus donations making a gross income of £7,570, less operational costs leaving a net gain of £6,315. The Draw was made by members of the audience at our Autumn Show at Whittington Village Hall on Friday 16th November 2018.

The lucky winners were:-

1.	00096	£750 cheque, Mr & Mrs H J Bryan, Burntwood, Staffs.
2.	07910	£250 cheque, Mrs R A Hicks, Lichfield.
3.	01203	£50.00, sponsored by a Trust member, Miss D M Skilbeck MBE, Bebington, Wirral.
4.	13203	£30.00 cheque, Mr P Wilson,, Renishaw, Sheffield.
5.	01993	£25.00 cheque, Mr A D Brookes, Solihull, West Midlands.
6.	12801	£20.00 cheque, Mr E Walklate, Hednesford, Staffs.
7.	05062	£15.00 cheque, Mr A Wardell, Burntwood, Staffs.
8.	09303	£10.00 cheque, Mrs P C Hulson, Hednesford, Staffs.

We thank our members and the public who supported this valuable fund-raising activity, also our willing volunteers who sold the most ever tickets at various events through the year.

Copy Date for the next issue is 1st April

GRAND PRIZE DRAW - 2019

Tickets are now on sale for a new Draw this year which we hope will raise more funds – and please some lucky winners – but think of the benefit you can bring to the Trust. Thank you for supporting our work in this way, with a chance to win even bigger prizes this year!

Please email sponsorship to bob.williams@lhcr.org.uk or phone 01543 671427.

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All Correspondence should be addressed to :- Trust Secretary,
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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 Ogle 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** David Suchet CBE.

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

DIRECTORS

Chairperson	Christine Bull	01283 790322	chrismarybull@yahoo.co.uk
Company Secretary	Dora Hancock	01543 26415	secretary@lhcr.org.uk
Finance, Funding	Bob Williams	01543 671427	bob_williams80@hotmail.com
Environment Director	Christine Bull	01283 790322	chrismarybull@yahoo.co.uk
Engineering	Peter Buck	01543 268041	bucksafloat@gmail.com
Land and Property	Jeff March	01543 255949	jeff.march171@btinternet.com
Marketing	Christine Howles	07852 190855	christinehowles@gmail.com
Health & Safety	Dora Hancock	01543 264158	hancock.dora@gmail.com
Communications	Christine Howles	07852 190855	christinehowles@gmail.com
Commercial	John Bryan	01543 683586	hjohnbryan@talktalk.net
Magazine Editor	Stefan Szulc	01543 677156	editor@lhcr.org.uk
IWA Nominee	Luke Walker	07979 862195	luke@lukewalker.me.uk

OFFICERS

Press Officer	Tom Reid	07840 300178	tommy_reid@yahoo.co.uk
Webmaster	Paul Marshall	01543 410646	webmaster@lhcr.org.uk
Land Officer	Gill Bellenie	07815 285856	gillbellenie@btinternet.com
Membership	Brian Williams		members@lhcr.org.uk
Volunteering/Events	Christine Howles	07852 190855	volunteering@lhcr.org.uk
Work Parties:-			
Hatherton	Denis Cooper	01543 374370	
Lichfield	Hugh Millington	01543 251747	hsandgamillington@gmail.com
Summerhill	Vacant		
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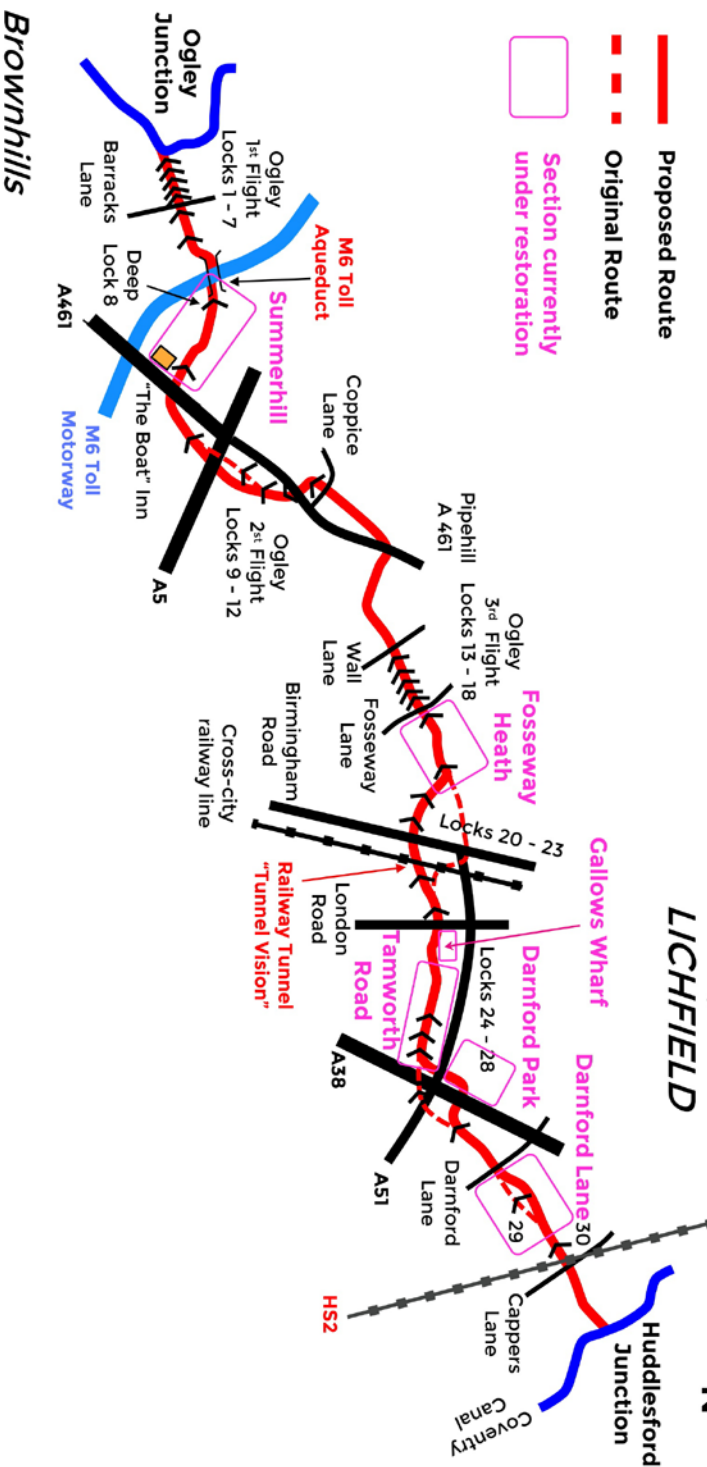
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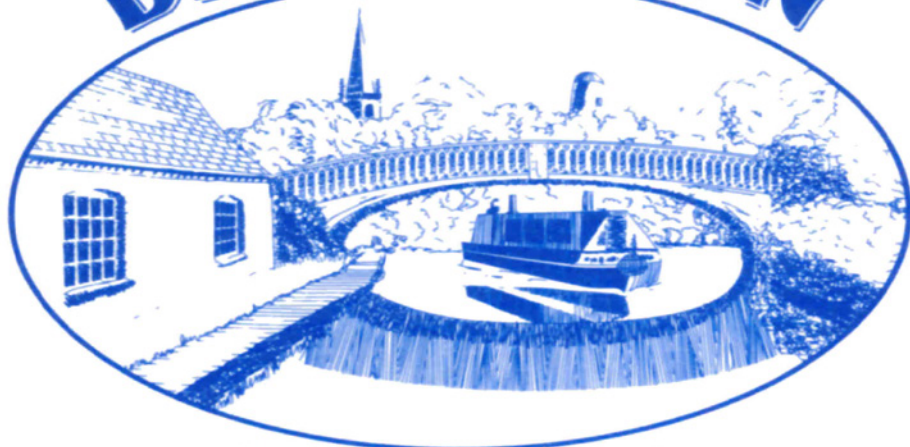
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THE LICHFIELD CANAL

Diagrammatic Plan Not to scale



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