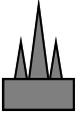




The Inland
Waterways
Association

Issue 14



Lichfield Branch

www.waterways.org.uk/lichfield

Winter 2016

Lichfield Lines

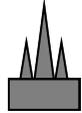


Walkers in front of Wychnor Hall (see Page 5)

The newsletter of IWA Lichfield Branch

The IWA may not agree with opinions expressed in this magazine but encourages publication as a matter of interest. Nothing printed may be construed as policy, or as an official pronouncement, unless specifically identified as such.

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Branch Chairman's Report January 2016

Here we are in the New Year with the branch AGM (in March) fast approaching. The term of office for committee members is three years so we have a healthy turnover of committee members. (I am sure that Will Rose, our Minutes Secretary, who is our newest committee member will be able to give his impressions of the work of the branch committee, have a chat with him). We are not good at "blowing our own trumpet" and as a consequence, people can underestimate the importance of the work IWA does to protect the waterways. The work is interesting, rewarding and sociable. Anyone who is interested in helping us to fulfil the aims of the Association locally is invited to put their name forward to join the committee. You can always come along to a committee meeting beforehand to find out more. If you would like to put your name forward for election or learn more about our work, please contact either myself or Denise Bending, our branch secretary. It will also be in order to come to the AGM and put your name forward at the appropriate point in the proceedings. There are several worthwhile committee jobs which are not onerous that even someone who has little experience of the waterways could enjoy doing. The committee positions are decided at the first committee meeting after our AGM.

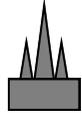
By the time of the branch AGM, I will have been Branch Chairman for three years. This combined with the six and a half year stint as Chairman in the early 1990's means that I have served as Lichfield Branch Chairman longer than anyone else. In my work with IWA's national Promotions and Communications committee (PromCom), I know that if a chairman is in post for too long or becomes autocratic, it can have a detrimental effect on the growth and health of the branch committee and so I have decided not to stand for re-election to the branch committee. I will (of course) be available to support and give advice should it be required! I shall not be idle, as I continue to work for PromCom. In the first instance, I am managing the national IWA Recruiting and Sales stands at the Caravan, Camping and Motorhome show at the NEC (February 23rd-28th). If you are coming to the show, please do come along and visit the stand.

In case it is not reported elsewhere in this newsletter, I should mention that the branch Christmas lunch at Oddfellows at the Boat was attended by 31 members. We had a really lovely meal and a great time was had by all so thank you to Ann and all her staff.

I hope to see lots of you at our fund raising fashion show at Byrkley Park Garden Centre on March 1st (see page 2). March is usually a month when we all need a bit of cheering up and so a sociable activity in the warmth and brightness of the garden centre seems "just the job" particularly as Edinburgh Woollen Mill is helping us to raise funds for the



Christmas Lunch at the Boat



IWA. It is to be expected that a whole load of us will arrive early and have lunch in the garden centre restaurant so do come along and join us!

During 2016 there are several things happening in the area in which I encourage branch members to take part. Besides our own work parties in Rugeley, the annual BCN Clean-up is due to take place on 16th/17th April. This year will see us return to an area not visited for many years, based at Ocker Hill on the Walsall Canal the teams of Volunteers will clean the lower Walsall, Tame Valley Canals and Ryders Green Locks.

Day Volunteers can sign on at Ocker Hill Depot from 10am, or at the Malthouse Stables in Tipton at 9am, where you will be transported to Ocker Hill.

Safety foot wear should be worn as well as water proof clothing. Bring your lunch if you do not wish to purchase the lunch provided by Waterway Recovery Group.

For further details please email or call Chris Morgan - cbmorgan@sky.com

Scores of members of the Waterway Recovery Group, IWA, Birmingham Canal Navigations Society, Dudley Canal Trust, Coombeswood Canal Trust and CRT all work together to blitz this area of the BCN to improve both the navigation and the general tidiness. This really is great fun so please come along and help.

Volunteers will be needed to assist the IWA Events team at the IWA Festival of Water at Pelsall over the August Bank Holiday weekend and I have no doubt that volunteers will be required before and after the event to assist boats to work up the locks to the "Wolverhampton level" of the Birmingham plateau. Rushall locks are within our branch area and so I would hope that we would have enough volunteers to be able to offer to assist on the locks on this very attractive lock flight. I understand that the BCNS will be organising "Explore the BCN cruises" both before and after the event so if you want to see more of the BCN but would prefer to cruise it in company, do keep an eye on the BCNS website for details.

Above all, stay fit and happy and enjoy yourselves.

Helen Whitehouse

Forthcoming Events

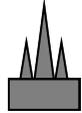
Posters for our upcoming events may be found at www.waterways.org.uk/lichfield
If you can download these and help to publicise our events it would be very helpful.

Meeting—Wednesday 17th February 2016

An illustrated talk by Ian Lane, Waterway Manager for the Canal & River Trust's West Midlands Waterways, covering their local activities and plans. 7.15 for 7.30 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, Staffs. WS13 8AY

Fashion Show—Tuesday 1st March 2016

A fundraising Fashion Show at Byrkley Park Garden Centre, Rangemore, near Burton on Trent, DE13 9RN, starting at 2pm. Lots of spring and summer wear available from Edinburgh Woollen Mill. Tickets £3 each Each ticket holder will receive 20% off in the Edinburgh Woollen Mill store on the day (on presentation of their ticket). A great afternoon in warm surroundings which promises to be fun, with various IWA members 'volunteering' to be models on the day! Tickets available at the February meeting or contact our Secretary Denise Bending on 01283 761971 or email lichfield@waterways.org.uk



Walk—Tuesday 8th March 2016

Hatherton Canal and Great Saredon Walk. An easy 3.5 mile walk with one gentle ascent and 2 stiles, on quiet country roads and a towpath. Leaving the village of Four Crosses we head south towards Saredon Hall Farm where we turn north-west to head for the picturesque village of Great Saredon. We pick up the truncated branch of the Hatherton Canal (which is still in water) on the outskirts of Calf Heath and continue eastwards along the well-maintained towpath as far as disused Meadow Lock No.3, where we double-back to return to the start. Afterwards we cross the A5 for refreshment at Tumbledown Farm Country Pub and Carvery. Meet 10:15 for a 10:30 start outside the village hall at Four Crosses, which is immediately south of the A5 one mile west of Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1RX. Contact Clive Walker on 07866 201873 or clive.walker@waterways.org.uk

Note: Due to the volume of traffic on the A5 at Four Crosses and the absence of a controlled pedestrian crossing, we strongly suggest you park your car on street in Four Crosses Lane or Catsbridge Lane in the village of Four Crosses, just south of the A5, and not in the car park of Tumbledown Farm. At the end of the walk we will then drive the short distance to the pub as the safest and most convenient way of crossing the main road.

AGM and Meeting—Wednesday 16th March 2016

Annual General Meeting (see Agenda page 14) followed by a social evening with members slides and films. 7.15 for 7.30 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, Staffs. WS13 8AY. Lichfield Branch members are invited to join the committee; contact the Chairman or any committee member for further information (see Committee page). Please bring along your most historic photos, or interesting recent ones, for our education or amusement; up to a dozen each, either as real colour slides or digital images in jpeg format on memory stick or CD. We may also be able to show old film clips on DVD. Contact Phil Sharpe to discuss technicalities on 01889 583330 or at phil.sharpe@waterways.org.uk.

Meeting—Wednesday 20th April 2016

A talk about River Canal Rescue. 7.15 for 7.30 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, Staffs. WS13 8AY

Walk—Tuesday 10th May 2016

Around the Calke Park area—details to be confirmed.

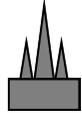
Festival—Pelsall Festival of Water, Pelsall Junction 27th to 29th August 2016

The IWA's Festival of Water comes to our area this year! Held at Pelsall Junction where the Cannock Extension canal meets the Wyrley and Essington canal near Walsall.

See poster on Page 15 and the IWA web site for further details. Details of the volunteering opportunities and a volunteers booking form may be found on pages 16 and 17.

BRIAN KINGSHOTT RIP

With great sadness, I have to tell you that Brian Kingshott, Chairman of Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust and Secretary of the West Midlands Region of the IWA died on



Sunday, 10th January 2016 at the age of 77 years. An Oxford university graduate, and former deputy head of the Royal School Wolverhampton, Brian has been a longstanding and much valued member of IWA for nearly 40 years. I understand that he joined IWA in the 1970s and soon afterwards became Birmingham branch secretary (when Lichfield branch was still part of Birmingham branch), a post he held for many years. He was the editor of the West Midland Region magazine, *Navigation*, for about 15 years (starting in pre-computer days when it had to be typed out, printed by him on an old Gestetner machine and assembled by hand). He became an active promoter of the Northern BCN and when restoration of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals was mooted became involved very early on with the setting up of the L&HCRT. He was secretary of the three IWA Campaign events at Pelsall in 1987, 1994 and 1998 where his diplomacy skills proved invaluable. He succeeded Eric Wood as Chairman of L&HCRT in December 1999 when Eric retired. Brian had also been secretary of the West Midlands Region of the IWA for about 12 years. He was awarded a prestigious Richard Bird medal by IWA in 2004. I first met Brian in the early 1980's when he and friends (Barry and Tricia Oldham) supplied the "flying barbeque service" for the IWA, Birmingham branch's Icicle Cruises held on the BCN. Brian was a very quiet and private man but I soon learned that if consulted, he was a source of great wisdom and sound advice. I will not be the only one to miss him greatly.



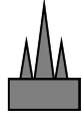
Helen Whitehouse 16/01/2016

Recent Activities

Walk—Alrewas, Wychnor & River Trent - 1st January 2016.

Twenty-three walkers assembled in the car park of the King William IV pub on New Year's day. After the passing of Storm Frank a few days earlier the weather was relatively benign for the start of 2016 with overcast skies, no wind and no rain.

The ground was sodden so the leader decided to do the circular walk "in reverse" leaving the muddy section (between Wychnor Hall and Alrewas) to the last mile. We set off past Alrewas Lock to enter the river section and its series of metal footbridges. The river level gauge was just below the red marker and it was clear there was a strong flow of water. IWA member, John Parry had kindly volunteered to share his extensive historical knowledge of the area as we went round, and we stopped by the large weir where he explained about the once-grand mill and moat that stood there before the canal was built.



After three-quarters of a mile we crossed the only stile on the walk and proceeded uphill to Wychnor church and the site of the deserted medieval village where John related some anecdotes about the church and pointed out inaccuracies on the information board that had been put there by English Partnerships. We then proceeded along Church Lane before turning left to pick up the long access road to Wychnor Hall. We posed for a group photo in front of the impressive 18th facade. Wychnor Park is now a country house and club owned by Diamond Resorts International. John explained the unique connection of the house with a fitch of bacon.



Walkers in front of Wychnor Hall

Passing a par 3 golf course to our left, we entered the muddy section of the walk, first heading downhill to river level before passing through a succession of metal gates and across drainage channels on somewhat precarious paved footbridges. Having safely negotiated these minor hazards we arrived back in Alrewas crossing the mill stream on two bailey bridges. Some cows had escaped from a field and were curious to learn how to negotiate the metal gate that barred access to one of these bridges, and the succulent grass on the other side. A couple of walkers stood guard and allowed through only non-bovine members. We then retired to a good lunch at the King William IV pub.

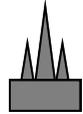
(Report and photo by Clive Walker)



Volunteers Christmas Party and Award - 4th December 2015

Our Rugeley Project volunteers were invited by CRT Central Shires to their annual Volunteers Christmas Party at Burton on Trent on 4th December, and several of us were able to attend. The party was an opportunity to meet volunteers from the many other groups now assisting CRT around the Waterway and to see some slides of work undertaken.

After a quiz and a buffet lunch various awards were made to a number of volunteers and we were particularly pleased that one of our group, Richard Bagley (pictured), was recognised with a Going the Extra Length award. Richard has been coming to our work parties for the past 3 years, and really does go 'the extra length'. His journey to any work party is two bus rides and a long walk there



and back as he doesn't live in Rugeley. Despite this he always turns up early and in all weathers, and is unfailingly cheerful and hard working. Richard is always keen to try new tasks and learn new skills and has proved an invaluable member of our gang, so his award was richly deserved.

(Report and Photo by Margaret Beardsmore)

WorkParty—Mossley Bridge - Friday 20th & Saturday 21st November 2015

The fence to the side of the Mossley Canal Bridge on the Trent and Mersey Canal had been identified by one of our volunteers as being unstable and dangerous. In agreement with Canal and River Trust we decided to remove and replace the existing posts and rail.

We also decided to refurbish the railings on top of the bridge and the gate opposite.



On a freezing cold November Friday it was a relief to see eleven experienced volunteers arrive, and it seemed that our work might be finished in the day.

The painting work went well and was finished on the Friday, leaving the area looking much smarter.

However, the removal of the wooden posts which were set in concrete to a depth of about 12 inches caused a lot of problems. We would have liked to use a specialist power

tool but CRT thought this might damage the bridge because we couldn't see beforehand how the posts were fitted.

One post was very rotten and came out quite easily which showed us what we needed to do.

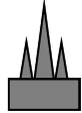
We decided to leave the top posts as they were solid (apart from some cosmetic damage).

The bottom post needed to come out but was concreted in very firmly. After much effort, it snapped off near the base and we had to drill away the remaining wood. By the end of Friday we were nowhere near getting it removed, and a hardy four volunteers came back on the Saturday to complete the job. Snow falling on Friday night didn't help morale, but luckily the snow didn't stick.

By Saturday afternoon the pesky stump was finally removed.....

All that remained was to cut the replacement posts and rail to size and shape, fix into position, concrete the base and paint the new wood. We finally finished at 3.30 pm on Saturday as the light was starting to fade.

All our volunteers deserve a big 'thank you'. What sounded to be a relatively simple job turned out to be very challenging, and the freezing weather didn't help. However, we had welcome trays of tea brought out by neighbours, Knights allowed us to use their car park and the Mossley



Tavern made us sandwiches for lunch - all very gratefully received, as was the cake provided by Helen.

(Report and photo by Margaret Beardsmore)

Further Work Parties in the Rugeley area will be announced in the spring. Details will appear on the branch website in due course see www.waterways.org.uk/lichfield

Walk—Polesworth & Coventry Canal - Tuesday 3rd November 2015

Ten walkers, many of whom were regular attendees, met up in the car park opposite the Red Lion pub in Polesworth. The weather was unusually mild for the time of the year, but the sky remained overcast.

We set off through the bustling village of Polesworth crossing the canal at bridge 52 before continuing uphill along a green lane and a field boundary towards the hamlet of Dordon, which had just been a row of houses until it grew in size at the turn of the 20th century to accommodate the families of miners at the nearby Birch Coppice colliery. The mine was closed in 1985 and the area is now occupied by warehousing and modern industrial units.

We turned eastwards to follow the quiet road to Dordon Hall Farm where we paused for a break and a group photo. It was here that we were hoping to see the views but the panorama was obscured by cloud.

We then descended briskly across a field, chased by curious horses, before continuing downhill across a ploughed field towards the last of the three stiles, where a metal footbridge took us across the main railway line. A few hundred yards later we reached the B5000, where we

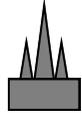
turned right to join the Coventry Canal at bridge 49.

This bridge is known as Grendon Bridge on the OS maps, but has been given the more intriguing name of Kitchen's bridge by BW, and the nearby row of terraced cottages that lie at right angles to the canal, also bear the same name. After a few yards we passed Grendon Wharf with its dry dock and clock tower that is reminiscent of the one at Alvecote Marina. The wharf looks busy but the cottages look as if they are slowly toppling into the canal.



We proceeded westwards along the towpath passing the Hoo Obelisk above us on the left. The obelisk was originally erected in around 1848 close to the London Railway Line on the opposite side of the canal, but was moved in the 20th century for safety reasons. The inscription reads: 'Site of the Chapel of St Leonard at Hoo demolished 1538 30th Henry VIII.'

The towpath winds its way back to Polesworth mirroring the nearby river Anker, with views of



Stiper's Hill to the right which the Pearson's guides remark as having been "scarred by a motor cycle dirt track".

We left the canal shortly after bridge 51 and walked through the park towards the 12th century Polesworth Abbey, before returning to the car park. A handwritten note on the door of the Red Lion told us that the pub would not open until 4 pm until further notice, so we made a detour to The Pretty Pigs in Shuttington where we enjoyed a value-for-money carvery.

(Report by Clive Walker, photo by Phil Sharpe)

Launch of Staffordshire Waterways Group Website

A new website has been launched which invites Staffordshire residents, communities and businesses to explore ways they can work together to look after and enhance the county's waterways.

Staffswaterways.org.uk has been developed by the Staffordshire Waterways Group (SWG) to provide a vision for the County's waterways. It suggests an approach to how each canal could be improved to deliver a better place to live and to create economic growth, and looks at the value of waterways from many perspectives including community, business, tourism, health, transport and the environment.

Individuals, groups, councils and businesses are invited to contact the Group if they want to get involved, have an idea they are looking to develop or wish to support any part of Staffordshire's waterways. Through the website and the SWG network the Group will provide contacts and make connections to help new projects get underway.

SWG is a partnership of volunteer canal societies (including IWA) working with Staffordshire County Council and the Canal & River Trust and has already helped attract considerable investment for towpath improvements, and delivered many great environmental and access projects.

Planning Matters

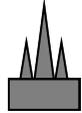
Phil Sharpe—Planning Officer

This report includes some of the 85 or so planning matters dealt with between mid October and mid January, a particularly busy period. All of these are summarised in the monthly notes on our website Planning page but if anyone would like further information do please contact me.

The **Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal** Conservation Area within Stafford Borough is being reviewed and we have suggested some minor changes to what is generally an attractively presented document.

Following our previous representations on the South Staffordshire Site Allocations Plan no further canalside employment land at Four Ashes or housing sites at Penkrigde are allocated. Also, restoration of the **Hatherton Branch Canal** is still supported and its route will remain protected from prejudicial development, which reverses the threat to abandon this commitment reported in Lichfield Lines 7.

Many of the more notable planning applications this time affect the **Trent & Mersey Canal**. The plans for the proposed marina at Daisy Lane, alongside Common Lock below Fradley Junction, have been amended following our advice that the entrance from the canal as shown



was impractical and needed to be recessed. Some other concerns have also been addressed but issues of congestion, road access, bank protection and online moorings remain.

Two large housing developments have been proposed for canalside sites at Handsacre. The larger one is for 200 houses in the fields behind Hayes Meadow Primary School, accessed by a new road right alongside the canal by Tuppenhurst Lane Bridge 57, which requires demolishing an existing house. Although the indicative layout includes some canalside open space the access would be intrusive and the drainage plans are unacceptable.

The second application is for 88 houses on farmland opposite The Crown Inn which would be an intrusion into the countryside. Both these sites are outside the Village Settlement Boundary and any approval would be premature before consultation on the Lichfield Site Allocations Plan.



Lock House Café from the canal

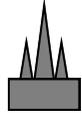
At Great Haywood a planning application to increase the capacity of The Lock House Restaurant by roofing over the outside seating area in the rear courtyard with a large conservatory, and other extensions and alterations to the sides, was withdrawn before consultations. Then, surprisingly, only a few weeks later an application was made for a change of use to a 5 bedroom house, but still with the side extensions and large conservatory, now covering

a swimming pool, plus a large garage to the front. Apparently in that short time the business had gone from one worth expanding to unprofitability! We objected both to the loss of this popular canalside café/restaurant and the damage to the historic environment of the canal and Conservation Area, for what seemed like an extravagant private use, and these plans have also now been withdrawn.

Great Haywood is in the Colwich Neighbourhood Plan area and the draft plan supports protecting the canals, and allocates the land opposite the Junction for recreation use with a small car park linked to the village. However, it also proposes a 'solar farm' on canalside land just south of the mooring basin at Hoo Mill which would not enhance the Conservation Area.

The rural setting of the **Coventry Canal** is also threatened by the Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Plan. This includes a large housing site allocation on Green Belt farmland to the south of Nuneaton at Gypsy Lane on the east side of the canal, and an employment site allocation at Faultlands on the west side. Both would be damaging to the canal environment without substantial landscaped buffer zones.

At Huddlesford, in the field opposite The Plough, recently used for fitting out boats and where permission was refused for a small wooden workshop building, a large block of 6 houses is now



proposed. But at 3 storeys high, with overhanging upper storeys, right against the canal and industrial style steel sheet roofing, it is considered to be of inappropriate design and grossly oversized for the location, and would have a damaging visual impact on the canal environment.

On the **Ashby Canal** at Hinckley further development of the industrial estate opposite The Lime Kilns public house with a large warehouse could affect the popular visitor moorings, and there may be buried remains of the former lime kilns adjacent to the canal which should be investigated.

HS2 High Speed Rail Update – January 2016 **Phil Sharpe, Planning Officer**

Phase 2

The Government announced its decision on the next phase of their High Speed Railway plans on 30th November. Part of the originally intended Phase 2 extensions to Manchester and Leeds is to be built 6 years earlier than originally planned as Phase 2a from Fradley to Crewe. A second hybrid Bill will be published in 2017, with construction from 2019 and completion in 2027.

Only limited changes have been made from the route consulted on in 2013, but these include extending the viaduct to replace an embankment alongside Great Haywood marina, which will maintain access to the marina's mooring pontoons as we requested in January 2014. However, there are no construction details at this stage and we will continue to press for full noise fencing on the viaduct to mitigate noise impacts on the marina and the Trent & Mersey Canal.

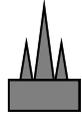
Other changes include moving the start point of Phase 2a eastwards to link up with the revised AP2 alignment of the Manchester Branch crossing of the Trent & Mersey Canal above Shade House Lock at Fradley Junction, and continuing up to 30m further east for 2 km northwards. This will take it a bit further away from the canal along the section between Wood End and Kings Bromley, although potentially still visible and audible due to being on embankment and viaducts, depending on the future details of the landscaping.

This latest announcement is not a consultation (except on property compensation) but includes nothing that IWA would object to. It will be 2017 before the full engineering details and environmental statement are published when the Bill is deposited, which will trigger another petitioning opportunity.

Decisions on the rest of Phase 2, the continuation of the western leg to Manchester and Wigan, and the eastern leg from Kingsbury to the East Midlands and Yorkshire, has been delayed by another year until autumn 2016, although changes to the station in Leeds have been agreed.

Phase 1

By the time this appears in print IWA will either have appeared before the Select Committee to expand on our petitions about Phase 1 and AP2 (Additional Provisions 2), or we may perhaps have been able to withdraw due to last minute concessions. Despite several years of consultation responses, petitions and meetings, it seems that all too often HS2 don't agree to changes until a few weeks before a Select Committee session when they try to persuade



petitioners to withdraw with some late stage promises !

Consequently, the legally binding 'Assurances' that Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust has sought about provision for the restored canal at Cappers Lane were agreed only 5 days before their programmed appearance, enabling them to avoid the trip to Westminster. HS2 have now committed to build and pay for a fully navigable diversion channel under the railway and realigned road, with a towpath and public access, and to transfer its ownership to CRT on completion.

Lichfield Cruising Club has made some progress with their requirement for replacement moorings and a slipway, but at the time of writing HS2 had still not committed to constructing this.

For an update on the outcome of the IWA, CRT and LCC petition hearings see the News page on our Branch section of the website.

Navigation Report 18/01/2016

Mike Bending, Navigation Officer

User Group Meetings

Committee members attended both the CRT Central Shires and West Midlands Waterways User Group Meetings held last Autumn. Both meetings emphasised the CRT re-organisation whereby the canal system is managed and planned centrally whilst the separate regional "Waterways" are responsible for working with local users, volunteers, interest groups and communities. I have some concerns as to whether the central groups will take sufficient account of local conditions and will be open and accessible to representations regarding local maintenance priorities. On the other hand the "Waterways" do now provide a clear route for discussions with CRT.

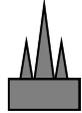
Both our local Waterways Managers requested that issues are raised with them by email to enquiries.centralshires@canalrivertrust.org.uk or enquiries.westmidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk as appropriate. Such issues could be major ones of policy or could be matters of minor maintenance such as vegetation blocking sight-lines. The Managers will take responsibility for resolving the issues with the wider CRT organisation. If you send anything to these addresses I would be very grateful if you could copy me so that your branch can maintain an overview of the problems on our local network.

Lock Gear Pawls

Last year CRT announced their intention to introduce stops on the pawls on lock winding gear so that boaters have to use two hands to



Modified Lock Gear Pawl



lower the paddles – one to raise the pawl off the ratchet wheel and the other to turn the windlass. The objective was to reduce the danger and damage caused when the operator lets go of a windlass whilst lowering a paddle. IWA and other boating organisations objected as this would cause delay in lowering the paddles if a boat grounded on the cill or someone fell in the lock.

CRT have put the implementation of the plan on hold but will be carrying out trials. One of the locks earmarked for this is Junction Lock at Fradley.

Canal Maintenance

Penkridge

A member reported that one of the bollards at Penkridge services was loose and that the lock was leaking badly through the bottom gate. We have been informed that the loose bollard will be repaired this winter. CRT were aware of the lock gate problem and are monitoring it. However the gate is due for replacement in winter 2017/2018. Bringing this date forward will only be considered if it deteriorates further as there are lock gates in worse condition needing replacement.

Barton Turn Lock Landing

The canal bank at Barton Turn collapsed a couple of years ago and part of the bottom lock landing was fenced off. Repair was scheduled for the winter 2014/15 but proved to be too expensive and difficult to be completed in the time available and so was delayed until this winter 2015/16. Unfortunately budget constraints have led to a further delay until after April. As closure of the canal will not be required the repair can be done during the summer.

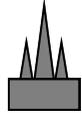


Unused Permit Holder Moorings

CRT have replied to the question I raised about unused Permit Holder Moorings in desirable locations not being made available as visitor moorings. Now that moorings are under centralised management CRT are reviewing their policies. They want to introduce better signs and to consolidate permanent towpath moorings removing any gaps.

Elsan disposal facilities

About two years ago CRT removed the majority of the short pieces of hose attached to taps near the bowl of the Elsan disposal facilities in the sanitary stations to meet water supply contamination concerns. Since then there has been a deterioration in cleanliness and some hire boaters have been seen using these taps to refill their domestic water tanks, possibly confused by the taps having the same screw fitting as water-point taps.



IWA's Navigation Committee raised these problems with CRT who have agreed to re-instate the short hoses. To satisfy the original contamination concerns the short hoses must terminate at least 150mm (6in) above the bowl spill-over level. The Navigation Committee have asked all IWA Branches to check that this change is being implemented across the network. If you use CRT Elsan disposal facilities and you find that the new short hose has not been installed, or has been installed incorrectly, please could you let me know.

Editorial Notice

Lichfield Lines is the newsletter of IWA Lichfield Branch, it is produced 4 times a year to keep members informed about our forthcoming public meetings, walks, work parties and other activities, to provide reports on recent meetings and events, and to include articles of general interest to our members.

The editor, Peter Gurney, welcomes articles, letters or photographs of waterway activities in our Branch area which can be emailed to pete.gurney@waterways.org.uk (Please note there is a 10MB limit for emails with photos as attachments sent via this address).

The copy date for the next newsletter is 15th April 2016, for publication in May.

Advertising

Lichfield Lines is posted or emailed to about 300 addresses covering about 440 Branch members. It can also be read and downloaded by anyone from the Branch website pages.

If you would like to publicise your waterway related business to our members, and others that read the newsletter online, we can offer advertising space at the following rates:

Full Page - £20 per issue

Half Page - £10 per issue

Please contact the editor to discuss artwork and layout.

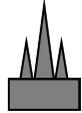
By advertising you will help to sponsor IWA's charitable activities and reach potential customers who are all committed to the waterways.

The IWA has a range of corporate members some of whom offer discounts to members. The discount details can be found on the IWA website at www.waterways.org.uk/support_us/corporates. Corporate members in our area are—

Lichfield Cruising Club
Stafford Boat Club Ltd
Truman Enterprise Narrowboat Trust
Ashby Canal Trust
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals
Restoration Trust
Canal Transport Services Ltd
River Canal Rescue Ltd
Midland Chandlers

Russel Newbury Register
Ashby Canal Association
Tamworth Cruising Club
Ash Tree Boat Club
Countrywide Cruisers (Brewood) Ltd
Elite Furnishings
Birmingham and Midland Marine Services
Waterways World Ltd

Please mention the IWA when contacting any of these Corporate Members.



IWA LICHFIELD BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 16th MARCH 2016, at 7.30 PM

To be held at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, WS13 8AY

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Approval of the minutes of the 2015 AGM and any matters arising from these minutes
- 3) Report from the Branch Chairman
- 4) Financial Report from the Treasurer
- 5) Elections to the Committee
Members completing 3 years in post and eligible for re-election
Barbara Hodgson, Pat Barton, Philip Sharpe, Margaret Beardsmore.
Helen Whitehouse has been in post for 3 years but will not be standing for re-election.
Members co-opted since last AGM and willing to stand for election.
Will Rose
Any other candidates
- 6) Any resolutions requested by members of the Branch (provided the Branch Chairman was notified in writing of the item at least 6 weeks prior to the AGM)*
- 7) Any Other Business

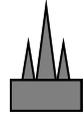
Notes:

Candidates for election to the committee must be current members of the Lichfield Branch and should indicate their willingness to stand.

The Branch committee officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected by the committee from its members at their first meeting after the AGM.

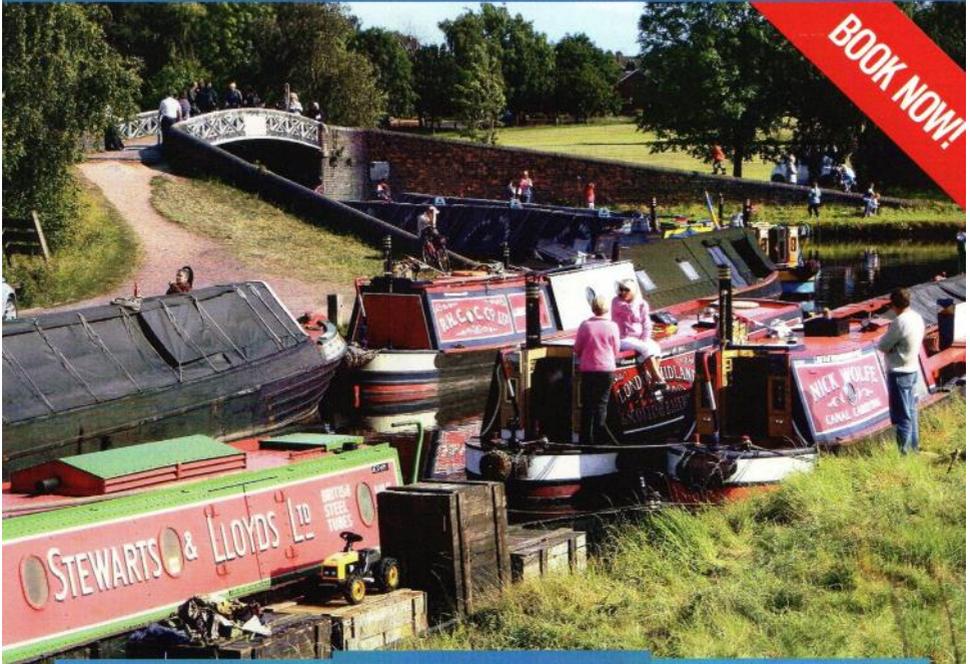
Current members of the Committee are: Helen Whitehouse (Chairman), Pat Barton (Vice-Chairman), Denise Bending (Secretary), Barbara Hodgson (Treasurer), Margaret Beardsmore, Mike Bending, Pete Gurney, Philip Sharpe, John Stockland, Will Rose

*Item 6: Please put any resolutions in writing and address them to the Chairman at Virginia Cottage, Brook End, Longdon, Rugeley, Staffs. WS15 4PD



Pelsall Festival of Water

27th – 29th August 2016 | Pelsall Junction, West Midlands



Pelsall Junction

There will be attractions for all the family and boats lining the canal at Pelsall Junction on the Birmingham Canal Navigations.

Fun for All the Family!

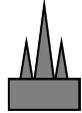
Contact

General Enquiries
07811 253 242
event.enquiries@waterways.org.uk

Trade enquiries
event.trade@waterways.org.uk

Get involved
event.volunteer@waterways.org.uk





**IWA Festival of Water—Pelsall 2016
Pelsall 27th to 29th August 2016
Pelsall Junction, Norton road, Pelsall WS3 5AU**

FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS

Name
Email Address
Phone numbers:
Home
Mobile
Work

Preference on job you would like to volunteer for
.....
.....
.....

(Tell us which job you would like to do and we will do our best to meet your preference)

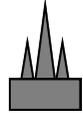
Your availability: Date(s) & Times

Before the festival.....
During the festival.....
After the festival.....

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SITE WILL BE ACTIVE FROM WEDNESDAY 25TH AUGUST TO WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST AND IT IS WITHIN THIS TIMESCALE THAT VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED.

Please complete and return to Pat Barton, pat.barton@waterways.org.uk or post to Pat Barton at 38 Waterside Court, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0AR
For any further information please phone Pat on 07947 337491

Please see following page for the roles that are available to volunteers.

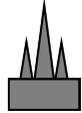


IWA Festival of Water—Pelsall 2016
Pelsall 27th to 29th August 2016
Pelsall Junction, Norton road, Pelsall WS3 5AU

Volunteer Roles Available

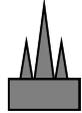
The Festival site will be open from Wednesday 25th August to Wednesday 31st August. Volunteers are needed throughout this period.

Festival Set Up	When the Festival is open
Litter picking	Programme selling
Erect marquees	Litter picking and rubbish collection
Erect market stalls	Cleaning tables etc in the food area and Entertainment marquee
Signage	Car parking
Guide traders as and when required	Checking toilets
Assist traders setting up stalls	Beer selling
Setting up the bar tent	Manning the pontoon bridge
Rubbish collection	Vehicle marshalling
Help pa team (if needed)	When the Festival closes
Help with electrical and connectivity requirements (if needed)	Litter picking
Distribution of toilets	Take down market stalls
Distribution of rubbish bins	Take down marquees
Vehicle marshalling	Collecting signage
Erect fencing around the workers area (Wednesday 25 th August)	Help with electrical and connectivity requirements (if needed)
Erect workers catering area (Wednesday 25 th August)	Consolidating rubbish bins for collection
	Vehicle marshalling
	Dismantle fencing and stack ready for collection (Wednesday 31 st August)
	Dismantle workers catering area (Wednesday 31 st August)
	Pack the trailer (Wednesday 31 st August)



Your Committee

Chairman, Sales and External Talks Tel: 01543 491161 Email: helen.whitehouse@waterways.org.uk	Helen Whitehouse
Secretary and Membership Tel: 01283 761971 Email: denise.bending@waterways.org.uk	Denise Bending
Treasurer Tel: 01785 716806 Email: barbara.hodgson@waterways.org.uk	Barbara Hodgson
Deputy Chairman and Recruitment Tel: 07947 337491 Email: pat.barton@waterways.org.uk	Pat Barton
Planning & Website Tel: 01889 583330 Email: phil.sharpe@waterways.org.uk	Philip Sharpe
Speakers Secretary Tel: 0121 308 0293 Email: john.stockland@waterways.org.uk	John Stockland
Newsletter Editor and Publicity Tel: 01785 255101 Email: pete.gurney@waterways.org.uk	Pete Gurney
Volunteer Coordinator Tel: 07581 794111 Email: margaret.beardsmore@waterways.org.uk	Margaret Beardsmore
Minutes Secretary Tel: 07801 054985 Email: will.rose@waterways.org.uk	Will Rose
Navigation Officer Tel: 01283 761971 Email: mike.bending@waterways.org.uk	Mike Bending
Ex Officio: Region Chairman	Position Vacant
Branch Contact Address Email: lichfield@waterways.org.uk	IWA Lichfield Branch 35a Main Street Linton Swadlincote DE12 6PZ



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Email: shropshirelass@trboating.fsnet.co.uk

Website: www.trboathandling.com