

Lichfield Lines



Clearing Buddleia from Brereton Community Centre (see Page 6)

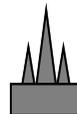
The newsletter of IWA Lichfield Branch

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Branch Chairman's Report April 2017

The start of another IWA year sees me still as your chairman, for a little while at least. At the AGM three of the Committee stood down from their roles, Barbara Hodgson as Treasurer, Pat Barton as Deputy Chairman and Mike Bending as Navigation Officer. Thanks to all of them for their invaluable work over the years. Pat has agreed to act as our Speakers Secretary, but will not actually be on the Committee, we are very grateful for her agreeing to do this. This means that the Committee is now made up of only four people and that is really not enough for a branch like ours that has always been very active – so if you can spare a little time each month to help us run the branch there are lots of jobs available, of course the most important ones are Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, all of which are (or will soon be) vacant – look at the branch web site or under Lichfield Branch in the Volunteering Directory (https://www.waterways.org.uk/support_us/volunteer/directory) for more details. It may be that you can help in other ways without being on the Committee – we need someone to organise the refreshments and also the raffle at our indoor meetings. Contact any of the Committee for more information.

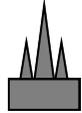
Since my last report Mike and I have been to the Fradley Open Day where the branch had a stand. It gave us a rare opportunity to have a look at an empty lock and to marvel at the quality of the work that was done all those years ago when it was built. We were told that at the bottom it was all the original brickwork, which was amazing. It was also a very well attended weekend with over 1200 people going into the lock chamber. Talking to some of the visitors it appears that some of them did not even know the canal was there!

I also went on the March walk around Middleton Lakes, this was very interesting as I haven't explored that area before and it was good to see some new faces. It was helped by very good weather and of course there was a visit to the pub at the end of it for well earned refreshments. Having been on the walk Mike and I decided to visit the area by boat at the start of April and took the chance to visit a bit more of the RSPB reserve where we were rewarded by the sight of some avocets on one of the lakes. Hope you have a good summer and that the weather is kind to you.



Denise Bending April 2017

Avocet at Middleton Lakes



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.
Our season of meetings will have finished by the time you read this but will restart in September. In the meantime there are lots of things happening through the summer.

Friday 5th May – Work Party at Brindley Bank, Rugeley

9.30 for a 10 am start. We will be tidying up vegetation growing over the towpath, putting up bat boxes and sowing wildflower seeds, plus the usual grass cutting and litter picking. CRT will provide equipment and IWA will provide drinks and refreshments. Meet at the bottom of the steps by the aqueduct, accessed along the footpath between Albany Drive and the pumping station, off Wolseley Road, Rugeley, WS15 2QY. No experience needed but please wear stout shoes and old clothes. For further information contact our Workparty Coordinator Margaret Beardsmore at margaret.beardsmore@waterways.org.uk or ring 07581 794111.

Tuesday 9th May 2017 – Walk round Pelsall and Little Wyrley

This is an easy 5 mile walk across farmland, heathland and along the towpath. The terrain is flat but there are five stiles and two fords as the footpath crosses a small brook in two places. Heading west we walk at first parallel to the Wyrley and Essington Canal across Pelsall Common and the site of the 2016 IWA Festival of Water. At Pelsall Works Bridge we turn northwards passing the remains of Fishley Church and cross over into Cadman's Lane heading towards Little Wyrley Hall. Leaving the workings of Wyrley Grove colliery (the site of the region's worst mining disaster) behind us we join the Cannock Extension Canal at Pelsall Road Bridge. We then return southwards back to the pub at York's Bridge for refreshment. Good walking boots are essential, perhaps wellies if wet. Meet at 10:15 am for a 10:30 start in the car park of The Finger Post pub, York's Bridge, Norton Road, Pelsall, WS3 5AU. Contact Clive Walker on 07866 201873 or clive.walker@waterways.org.uk

IWA National Trailboat Festival—Saturday/Sunday 27th and 28th May 2017

Moira Canal Festival is hosting the IWA National Trailboat Festival this year. The aim is to raise awareness of, and money for, the restoration of the Ashby canal. See the IWA website or the Moira Canal Festival website for full details.

Helen Whitehouse (branch sales officer and West Midlands Region chairman) will be taking the Lichfield IWA branch sales and information stand to the event to wave the IWA flag and needs help to man the stand on the 27th and 28th and also to erect the IWA marquee on Friday, 26th May (and dismantle it on Sunday 28th). If you are able to assist, even if only for a couple of hours, please contact Helen on 01543 491161 or email helen.whitehouse@waterways.org.uk asap



Sunday 6th August 2017 – Lock Wind at Barton Turn Lock.

A fun and fundraising event on the Trent & Mersey Canal, from 10 am to 4 pm. Help from experienced lock users needed to engage with and assist boaters through this very busy lock, and hopefully receive lots of donations for IWA's good causes. We also need help with sales and talking to passing boat crews about IWA. We will have a small gazebo beside the lock with refreshments available, and a barbecue at 4 pm outside the pub for those taking part. If you can assist, even if only for a couple of hours, please contact Helen Whitehouse at helen.whitehouse@waterways.org.uk or on 01543 491161.

Saturday/Sunday/Monday 26th to 28th August 2017—IWA Festival of Water

The IWA Festival of Water is not in our area this year but is pretty close at Ilkeston on the Erewash Canal. See the IWA website nearer the time for full details. Forms for camping/mooring are already on the website at waterways.org.uk/events_festivals/festival_water/IWA_festival_water. Information about volunteering at the event is also on the website.

Wednesday 20th September 2017 – “Sandfields Pumping Station”

Our first talk of the autumn is an illustrated talk by David Moore about this iconic Victorian pumping station in Lichfield currently under the care of Lichfield Waterworks Trust. 7.15 for 7.30 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, WS13 8AY

Recent Activities

Wednesday 18th January—Meeting

The Derby Canal Past and Future with Chris Madge

Chris is the Chairman of the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society so was the ideal candidate to give us an insight into the progress and future plans of the restoration.

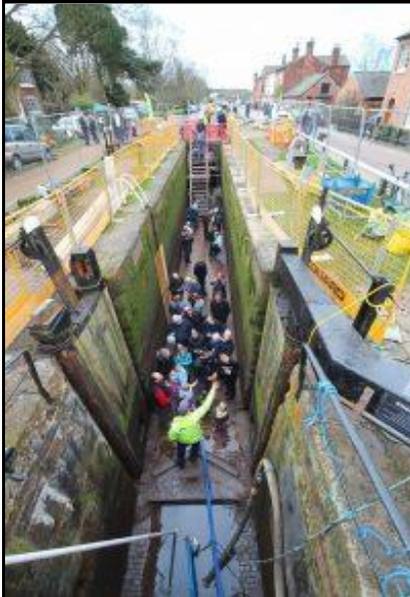
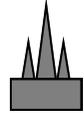
Wednesday February 15th 2017—Meeting

The Waterways Recovery Group with Mike Palmer

Our February meeting was originally planned to be on the subject of Claverton Pumping Station on the Kennet and Avon Canal near Bath but our speaker George “Bungle” Eycott had found himself double booked so the Chairman of WRG stepped in at short notice and gave us a fascinating talk on what the WRG gets up to on its canal camps and the great success it has achieved at various canals around the country.

Sat/Sun 18/19th February 2017—Open Weekend at Fradley Junction

Lichfield IWA, along with Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust, were invited by CRT to attend the open days on Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th February at Fradley



Junction when members of the public were allowed to climb down steps to inspect the bottom of Junction Lock which was under repair. We were provided with a gazebo in the workshop courtyard opposite the cafe whilst LHCRT had the use of the small visitor centre. CRT clearly had put a lot of effort into organising the event with large numbers of their volunteers and staff present, and Richard Parry visited on Saturday. The target was for 300

members of the public to attend each day but CRT's efforts were well rewarded when on both days over 600 people were counted going down into the lock. Our stand which included the display boards and a small table of merchandise was manned from 10am to 3pm on both days by members of the committee and the wider branch. We distributed IWA canal maps and talked to passers-by who bought books, fridge magnets, and model narrowboats. The event was well worth the branch attending as it gave us the opportunity to meet local residents, publicise IWA and to demonstrate our ongoing cooperation with CRT.



Roger & Pam McLellan helping at Fradley As we went to press we learnt of the sad news that Roger had passed away recently after a short illness. Our condolences to Pam and family

Report by Mike Bending

Friday 24th February 2017—Volunteer Work Party in Rugeley

Our work party in February was luckily the day after Storm Doris and before the next round of bad weather.



We had a good turnout of volunteers (13) plus support from CRT which was much appreciated. Tesco provided a hot lunch again plus free parking, and our cake makers Margaret Curtis and Pat Barton did us proud!

At our previous work party we installed some steps by Leathermill Lane, but we felt they needed a bit of improvement and a handrail to make them safer. Pete from CRT was the 'main man' on this task, with Derek as his labourer.

The offside area by Leathermill Lane



Removing the undergrowth from the offside



Part of the haul from under Leathermill Lane Bridge

canal bridge has been an eyesore for some time, and since we had the CRT aluminium boat we tackled the huge accumulation of brambles and rubbish. Some volunteers had great fun with grappling hooks, removing 8 supermarket trolleys, a bike, 3 road signs and a big red road barrier from the canal under the bridge. It was really disappointing to have this much rubbish in the canal as we only cleared it just before Christmas.

Our litter pickers worked wonders up and down the canal bank, and we have had wonderful feedback from local residents about all our hard work.

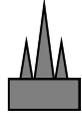
We also noticed the first signs of Spring

bulbs coming through from our December planting, although it will be some time before they are at their best.

(Report and photos by Margaret Beardsmore, Volunteer Coordinator)

Tuesday 7th March 2017—Walk around Middleton Lakes

Birds was the theme for this walk, as thirteen walkers, many of them armed with binoculars, assembled in the car park of the Dog and Doublet Inn at Bodymoore Heath. Leaving the car park we turned right, under Cheatle's Farm Bridge and past Lock 9 of the Curdworth flight, and soon reached a road bridge, where we left the Birmingham



& Fazeley Canal to walk cautiously along Bodymoor Heath Lane. Two honey buzzards circled overhead, a warm-up act for the birdlife to come. Passing through a gate we walked across two fields, towards a large complex that the OS map describes simply

as a 'sports ground', but which in fact is the training centre for Aston Villa FC. We passed around the perimeter, and you can't help but notice the high embankments and even higher fences that surround the training ground. Are they more worried about people getting in, or balls getting out, I wonder?

Crossing a muddy quarry track we zigzagged through Coneybury Wood. Birds darted in and out of the trees and the walking pace slowed as people stopped to identify the wildlife. We eventually reached a tarmac road and the entrance to RSPB Middleton Lakes. We paused for refreshments at the converted barns that are adjacent to the medieval Middleton Hall, which once belonged to the Willoughby family; their principal residence being Wollaton Hall in the centre of Nottingham.

A group photo was taken on a wooden walkway, one of the many viewing platforms in the bird reserve, which was acquired by the RSPB as recently as 2011. The path through the plantation was alive with birdlife as one would expect and we eventually reached the canal at Fisher's Mill Bridge. We then turned south to walk parallel to the canal through more of the reserve with extensive views eastwards towards Dosthill and the river Tame. We rejoined the towpath, which at this point doubles as the Heart of England Way. Kingsbury Water Park was to our left where gulls were busy feeding and screeching in Canal Pool.

After a mile along the towpath of the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal, and with the early Spring sun directly in our eyes, we arrived back at our starting point where we took refreshments.

(Report and photo by Clive Walker)

Wednesday 15th March—Meeting **Branch AGM & "The Claverton Pumping Station" by George Eycott**

Our Branch AGM (see page 12) was followed by the postponed talk on the water powered Claverton Pumping Station giving a great insight into the restoration of the historic building.



Friday 31st March 2017— Work Party at Brereton, Rugeley

In conjunction with Brereton Millions we arranged with CRT to remove buddleia from the offside canal wall by the Brereton Community Centre. CRT provided a work boat and two CRT volunteers as crew, plus supervision.

We had a full team of volunteers, and Brereton Millions also provided volunteers, besides letting us use the community centre for welfare, tea and coffee



throughout the day, and a very nice lunch for us all. Pat Barton kindly made us her usual excellent fruit cake.

Before we started, Stuart Collins (the Ecologist from CRT) did a thorough search of the area to check that we weren't disturbing nesting birds.

Our Buddleia Bashers filled most of the workboat with the unwanted vegetation. Whilst they were busy doing that, other volunteers had a good litter pick along the canal and also into the surrounding area

where litter was very unsightly to any canal users. Twelve bin bags of litter were collected which filled up the rest of the space on the work boat.

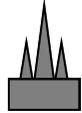
In the meantime, myself, Mat Walker from Brereton Millions, and Stuart walked around the area and made plans for a future wildlife reserve along this section of the Trent & Mersey Canal - all very exciting stuff. More details to follow when we have them, but funding will be provided by Brereton Millions.

(Report and photos by Margaret Beardsmore)

Planning Matters

Phil Sharpe, Planning Officer

This report highlights some of the of the 70 or so planning matters dealt with from



early January to mid-April 2017. They are all summarised in the monthly notes on our website Planning page, and if you want further information you can contact me.

On the **Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal** the proposed new signage for the Boat Inn at Penkridge showing a Leeds & Liverpool wide boat was changed to a more appropriate narrowboat as we requested.

Between Gailey and Four Ashes, some changes have been made to the plans for the 'West Midlands Interchange' to avoid a rail bridge over the canal and to move the main access road further from the canal with more screen planting, as we suggested, although a new road bridge over the canal is now proposed close to the existing modern bridge at Gravelly Way. However, this remains a massively intrusive warehouse development that would industrialise an attractive, tranquil, rural section of canal with 14 big sheds and constant traffic noise. A stage 2 public consultation is expected soon and IWA members are urged to make individual objections to help strengthen our case.

On the **Trent & Mersey Canal** the proposed marina at Shirleywich, Pasturefields for 196 boats has been approved, subject to further details on road access, basin lining and the canal entrance bridge design. Conditions also exclude any residential moorings and limit the type of goods for sale in the shop.

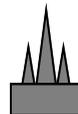
At Great Haywood the long-running saga of The Lock House Restaurant continues with a new application to change the restaurant areas back to living accommodation. It claims the business is no longer viable due to local competition including a new National Trust cafe at Shugborough. Although regretting the loss of this popular canalside facility, as it no longer includes any structural changes affecting the heritage or appearance of the buildings we have not objected.

At Alrewas the housing proposed in the 'horse field' between Bagnall Lock and the bypass has been reduced from 15 two storey houses to 6 bungalows with reduced impact on the canal and Conservation Area, although some concerns remain about the access over Bagnall Lock Bridge.



Bagnall Lock Bridge

At Burton on Trent new plans for the previously approved housing development between Branston Water Park and the Bridge Inn have changed the house designs to a more traditional appearance as we requested, with enhancement of the towpath



hedgerow and canalside open space.

On the **Coventry Canal** at Huddlesford an application for 139 holiday lodges adjacent to Kings Orchard Marina makes much of its proximity to the canal towpath for walking and cycling. However, the proposed two storey houses and high density layout looks more like a housing estate with some timber cladding rather than a more typical timber, single storey holiday lodge development. It has none of the facilities on site that visitors would expect from a holiday destination, and would lead to increased traffic on unsuitable local roads, including the narrow hump-backed canal bridges at Huddlesford and Brookhay which would become more dangerous.

Further along the canal at Atherstone, the long proposed residential redevelopment of the derelict hat factory complex at Coleshill Road above the locks has finally been agreed, with a mixture of new build and conversion of some of the older buildings. At Hartshill we have objected to extended operating hours for the aggregate bagging depot opposite The Anchor Inn, the noise from which affects the popular boat moorings.

On the south side of Nuneaton, the large greenfield housing and industrial site allocations at Gypsy Lane and Faultlands, on both sides of the Coventry Canal, remain in the Borough Plan. But they now include a landscape buffer alongside the canal as we requested, with development to be set back behind tree and shrub planting, towpath enhancements and access improvements. There is also a suggestion that the derelict Griff Arm might be partly restored.

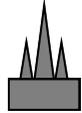
On the **Wyrley & Essington Canal** both of the applications for 'short term reserve' electricity generating stations on canalside sites in Aldridge, which we objected to on grounds of noise, have been withdrawn.

Also on the W&E, work on the 'Pratts Mill' railway aqueduct over the Walsall to Cannock line at Leamore went ahead despite Network Rail not receiving Listed Building Consent to raise the parapets and reline the channel. But as predicted, shot blasting the cast iron trough caused damage which delayed the work and led to several extensions of the stoppage.

On the **Lichfield Canal** section of the Wyrley &



Bed of the Lichfield Canal near the M6 Toll Aqueduct



Essington, we have supported an application by Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust for construction of a new section of canal at Darnford Park in Lichfield, including 2 locks, a canal basin and tunnels under the A38 and A51. This continues the preliminary works already started on the canal diversion, although it may be some years before the tunnels can be financed.

The Lichfield Local Plan Allocations document now includes a specific policy safeguarding the canal restoration route but we are continuing to press for improvements to the wording.

Another L&HCRT application we have supported covers replacement of the Crane Brook culvert and reinstatement of the canal embankment above it, which has already been completed, and construction of temporary pedestrian access ramps up to the M6Toll Aqueduct to help extend the Summerhill section footpath through to Barracks Lane.

HS2 High Speed Rail Update – April 2017

Phil Sharpe, Planning Officer

IWA continues its campaign to get full navigation provision and better noise protection for all the affected waterways and their users, working closely with CRT and the local canal societies and trusts.

Phase 1 London to Birmingham and Handsacre

The House of Lords committee stage and the final votes in both houses were largely formalities and no significant changes were made before Royal Assent to the Bill was granted on 23 February. Various surveys, ground investigations and enabling works are now due to start in the Spring although there is no firm date yet for the construction works.

Phase 2b Kingsbury to Leeds and Crewe to Manchester

The Phase 2b Design Refinement consultation was announced in November and a summary of how the route changes affected various waterways was given in our last report in November.

In Lichfield Branch area these are the Coventry and Ashby canals.

The **Coventry Canal** crossing at Polesworth is unchanged and will be on a 10m high viaduct across the moorings in the old colliery basin, with the line cutting through the middle of Pooley Country Park.

The **Ashby Canal** crossing at Measham has been moved from near the A42 to the other side of the town. This will enable a stalled housing site to go ahead which includes reconstruction of the canal arm into Measham Wharf. However, the new crossing of the restoration route is at entirely the wrong level for the canal. Further analysis of the problem has been undertaken and possible solutions considered.



The canal restoration route authorised by the 2005 Transport & Works Act Order partly follows the old railway line and is crossed by the new HS2 route just north of the brickworks, where the track level is about 2.7m below water level. To change the canal level here to accommodate the railway would need it to be raised or lowered by nearly 7 metres



Ashby Canal near Moira Furnace



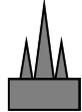
Horses Lane Bridge in Measham on old railway near HS2 Ashby Canal crossing

to provide the necessary clearances, which is equivalent to 2 or 3 conventional locks. But locking up and down again to a very short summit on an aqueduct, or alternatively locking down and up again to tunnel under the railway, would clearly both be totally impractical. Not only would this be expensive to build, maintain and operate, with large pumps required to supply water to the summit or drain the sump, but after the initial novelty value had worn off it would be seen as a major navigational barrier to boaters and discourage

them continuing into Measham, which is the main purpose of the restoration.

The alternative of lowering HS2 by about 7m would conflict with the Atherstone Road crossing and possibly the River Mease SAC. The better option for the canal would be to raise HS2 by the 7m, which would reinstate the vertical alignment of the route considered in 2012 but presumably rejected because of its impacts on nearby housing, more of which has since been built, so this would not be acceptable locally.

A possible compromise is to divert the canal route into higher ground to the northeast to pass under HS2 where its level is higher and it would not have to be raised as much. But to gain the full height necessary to maintain the canal level would require the diversion to go beyond the Bosworth Road, which would need additional



bridges as well as the deep cuttings, and the proximity of HS2 to Measham Cemetery means the railway would also need to be moved laterally.

Another alternative would be to move the HS2 route further eastwards, south of the brickworks and further away from the Measham properties, where its level could be more easily changed to bridge the canal route, although there are wider implications of such a horizontal realignment.

The present proposal fails to allow for the continuing Ashby Canal restoration and is therefore completely unacceptable. Whatever solution is eventually agreed, IWA will insist that any extra cost to the canal restoration project must be covered by HS2 Ltd., as is being done for the Lichfield Canal at Cappers Lane. IWA will continue working with the Ashby Canal Trust and Association, CRT and Leicestershire County Council to help resolve this.

IWA's full national response to the Phase 2b consultation was submitted in March and can be seen on the Campaigns page of the national website under Consultation Responses.

Lichfield Branch AGM 15th March 2017

For those members who did not attend the recent Branch AGM the official minutes and the Chairman's and Treasurer's report are below.

IWA LICHFIELD BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 15th MARCH 2017 at 19.30.

**At Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield,
WS13 8AY**

Present: Denise Bending (Chairman), Barbara Hodgson (Treasurer), Mike Bending, Phil Sharpe, Pete Gurney, Pat Barton (part), Helen Whitehouse (Region Chairman) + 22 other members of the branch.

Apologies for absence: Margaret & Derek Beardsmore, Peter Oakden, Terry Robertson, Roger & Pam McLellan.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGM and any matters arising from these minutes:

Proposed: Eric Wood

Seconded: Helen Whitehouse

The minutes were approved unopposed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Report from the Branch Chairman:



Please see the report attached. There were no questions arising.

4. Financial report from the Treasurer:

Please see the report attached.

The Branch were asked to approve the Treasurer's report

Proposed: Adrian Wedgewood

Seconded: John Stockland

The report was approved unopposed. There were no questions arising.

Eric Wood expressed his thanks on behalf of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust for the donations from the branch.

Adrian Wedgewood expressed his thanks to Helen Whitehouse for her work on the Branch Sales Stand.

5. Elections to the committee:

a) Members completing 3 years in post and eligible for re-election:

Denise Bending has been in post for 3 years and will be standing for re-election.

Mike Bending has been in post for 3 years but will not be standing for re-election

Pat Barton and Barbara Hodgson are both stepping down from the committee

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Pat and Barbara for their work over many years.

Denise Bending was re-elected to the committee unopposed.

Proposed: Helen Whitehouse

Seconded: Barbara Hodgson

b) Members co-opted since the previous AGM: None.

c) Any other candidates: None

6. Any resolutions requested by members of the Branch (provided the Branch Chairman was notified in writing of the item at least six weeks prior to the AGM):

No resolutions had been received.

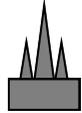
7. AOB:

There was no other business.

The meeting was closed at 19.47.

IWA Lichfield Chairman's Report

I must admit to some trepidation when I took on the role of Chairman, but I need not have worried with the help of a very good committee the year seems to have gone well.



In April we took the local MP, Amanda Milling, and one of the County Councillors, Mark Winnington on a boat trip through Rugeley showing them what we had done and also to highlight areas of concern especially the need for disabled access at Leathermill Lane and also the damage done to the bridge there. The response was positive and Amanda has been helpful in trying to get the problems rectified.

In early August a group of us had a very enjoyable trip on the horse boat on the Cromford canal in brilliant sunny weather.

Over the August bank holiday the Festival of Water was held at Pelsall which was a very good event and all the locals and visitors enjoyed the weekend which was helped by reasonable weather.

We have had a season of interesting and varied talks most of which John Stockland had organised before he resigned from the Committee because of ill health and which Pat has since looked after. Thanks to John for all his hard work over the years and to Pat for stepping into the breach.

Lichfield Lines is always a good read and both it and the web site are a great asset to the branch. Many thanks not only to Pete and Phil but also to everyone who sends in contributions to these.

The work parties at our adopted stretch of canal in Rugeley have also continued under the guidance of Margaret and with increasing co-operation from CRT especially since their reorganisation last year. The local people certainly seem to appreciate the work that has been done. Many thanks to Margaret and Derek and all the volunteers who come along and help, also to Tesco for allowing us to park in their car park and use their staff facilities and not forgetting the cake makers!

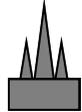
Clive has organised some very interesting walks, even when it rained it was enjoyable! They are a good social activity and help us to introduce non-members to the waterways and all they have to offer.

Our relationship with CRT continues to improve, Mike and others attended meetings where CRT consulted canal users about how the local waterways can be maintained and improved. We recently had a stand at their Fradley Open Day and were there selling items and explaining to people the work of IWA.

Barbara has continued to do a great job of looking after the money and once again we have made several donations to local canal restoration projects thanks to the fund-raising that we do.

Phil continues to review all relevant planning applications and has been able to inform the relevant authorities of any unsympathetic development and has also been kept very busy with the ongoing issues of HS2.

I think it has been a very good year and I am very grateful to everyone who has helped



with the various activities that we do. Thank you ALL very much for your hard work and support.

Denise Bending March 2017

IWA Lichfield Treasurer's Report

2016 was a good year and we were able to donate £1080.00 to canal funds as follows:-
£1040 to the Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust
£40 to the BCNS

We made a loss on the year of £3.45. At the end of the year we had £3178.60 in our bank accounts, £1136.06 of which is allocated to work on our Rugeley project in 2017.

I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the raffle, refreshments and your donations. These covered the £216.00 cost of the room hire for the monthly meetings and also speakers fees.

Our thanks go to Helen Whitehouse who raised £40 from talks she gave to different groups.

The overall proceeds for the year from fundraising events & donations, after all expenses had been deducted, were £209.60, made up from the following

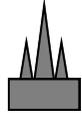
£ 26.00 from donations at our walks
£139.10 from fashion show
£ 34.00 from Christmas meal
£ 12.50 loss after expenses at Festival of Water at Pelsall
£ 17.00 Branch Collection
£ 6.00 Donation from Mr Sherrat

We received £46.00 interest from our bank accounts. It should be noted that from November 2016 the bank is no longer paying interest on our deposit account.

Our outgoings were

£92.95 in total for all officers' expenses
£505.89 for the printing and postage costs of Lichfield Lines for the year. Against this we received £606.05 in total to cover our costs, of which the per capita payments were £526.05 and £80 from advertising. Please note that in future all costs are being covered by Head Office and no per capita payments are being made to branches. We will still be able to keep any income from advertising.

The outlay on the sales stand, run by Helen Whitehouse, was £247.77 but the receipts were £826.94 giving a profit of £579.17. An estimate of the stock held at the end of the year had a retail value of approximately £728.00.



So in all a successful year and hopefully 2017 will be even better.

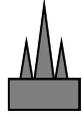
Barbara Hodgson March 2017

YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU

After the official reports were given the election of committee members revealed that several long standing members of the committee were standing down, also Denise, our Chairman and Secretary will soon be leaving the area. This leaves us very short of people to help run the Branch which will severely impact the ability of the Branch to function.



If you can help at all please contact any of the remaining members (see Committee List page 18). Some of the functions can be easily performed without actually being on the committee. We are a friendly bunch and the monthly meetings only take up 2 or 3 hours. The cake is usually pretty good as well.



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 will be 15th July 2017, for publication in August.

Advertising

Lichfield Lines is posted or emailed to about 300 addresses covering around 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

Waterways World Ltd

Fingerpost pub Pelsall

Clifford Arms Great Haywood

Russel Newbury Register

Ashby Canal Association

Tamworth Cruising Club

Ash Tree Boat Club

Countywide Cruisers (Brewood) Ltd

Elite Furnishings

Birmingham and Midland Marine Services

River Canal Rescue Ltd

Midland Chandlers

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



<u>Your Committee</u>	
Chairman Tel: 01283 761971 Email: denise.bending@waterways.org.uk	Denise Bending (Until end of June)
Secretary	Position Vacant
Treasurer	Position Vacant
Planning & Website Tel: 01889 583330 Email: phil.sharpe@waterways.org.uk	Philip Sharpe
Newsletter Editor, Publicity and Membership 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	Position Vacant
Navigation Officer	Position Vacant
Ex Officio: Region Chairman Branch Sales and External Talks (non-committee posts) Email: helen.whitehouse@waterways.org.uk	Helen Whitehouse
Walks Coordinator (non-committee post) Tel: 07866 201873 Email: clive.walker@waterways.org.uk	Clive Walker
Speakers Secretary (non-committee post) Tel: 07947 337491 Email: pat.barton@waterways.org.uk	Pat Barton
Branch Contact Address Email: lichfield@waterways.org.uk	IWA Lichfield Branch 35a Main Street Linton Swadlincote DE12 6PZ




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