

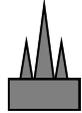
Lichfield Lines



Margaret and Derek receiving the Waterways Renaissance Awards (see Page 9)

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.



Chairman's Report

I am writing this one of the hottest days of the year so far, the day of the men's final at Wimbledon. Congratulations to Andy!

Congratulations are also due to everyone working on the Rugeley Project, IWA members, Rugeley Lions and local volunteers. This project reached the finals of the Waterways Renaissance awards in two classes becoming runner-up in the Community section. Margaret Beardsmore has master-minded this whole project. Of course, she couldn't have managed this without the support of Derek, her husband. So thank you and well done both of you! By the time you receive this newsletter, our National Waterways Festival will be over but it is looming on the horizon as I write. Many branch members are actively involved in the organisation of this and have been working for months helping to ensure it is successful. Success can be measured in several ways, attendance, enjoyment and financial but of course the main aim of the "national" is to raise the profile of the local waterways and also to highlight the work of the IWA. This year, in particular, we will be drawing attention to the detrimental effects that the HS2 railway will have on parts of the navigable canal system and on several restoration projects around the country. The IWA is working both locally and nationally with HS2Ltd, MPs, local authorities, canal societies and community groups to ensure that it has the least worst effect on our precious waterways. IWA is setting up a dedicated area on our website to keep members informed about what is going on. We will publicise the link at our next branch meeting when it is up and running.

If you missed out on coming to the "national" this year, it should be easier for you next year when it is likely to be back in the West Midlands Region.

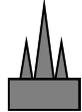
We apologise to our members for cancelling the boat trip in June. This was mainly due to insufficient numbers registering an interest with John Stockland in advance. The company who run the trip boat have stressed that they continue to run regular trips and it is usually possible to cruise with them without having to book in advance. Next time we organise something, we will give more notice and try harder to get more bookings! We apologise to Severn Leisure Cruises if we misled anyone in any way.

The Boat Rally at Pelsall on June 10th & 11th run by the BCNS was a great success. Many of our branch members (wearing their BCNS hats) were involved with the organisation but we also attended as a branch, in order to run some Wild over Waterways (WoW) activities to make the whole event more enjoyable for visiting children. My thanks to all those who gave up their weekend to make this so successful.

Our regular monthly meetings resume in September and we have booked the Martin Heath Hall for the next 12 months. (see meeting dates on Page 2.)

I am often asked why I spend so much time working for IWA. My response is that I have had so much enjoyment from the waterways over the years that it is my way of giving something back (to prevent me feeling guilty).

To this end, I thought that I would offer the chance for some of you to feel less guilty by enabling you to volunteer for a few small jobs which will not take up much of your time! Firstly, I need somebody to set up and run the branch sales stand at meetings. I will store and transport the stock but as I cannot do two jobs at once, I thought that someone else might be



happy to play shop at the meetings! If anyone would like to officially take over the running of the branch sales stand from me, I should be absolutely delighted!

On the principle of many hands making light work, we also welcome volunteers to serve tea and coffee in the interval of our meetings. It would be nice if we had so many volunteers that we could set up a rota rather than relying on the same few stalwarts!

This branch will be having a stand at the Boat Rally at Huddlesford on September 21st-22nd. If we have enough volunteers, besides the sales we will also run some of our more popular games. If you would like to spend a couple of hours assisting us with any of the above activities, please contact me.

Margaret and Derek Beardsmore will be helping out on the barbeque (at Huddlesford) and if catering is more your forte and you would like to help there, please contact Margaret. (see Page 14 for our contact details).

IWA's national AGM will be held in this region on September 28th (always the last Saturday). It will be an opportunity for you to see our national chairman and to quiz other officers. There is usually a meeting on the morning of the AGM for a more informal update for interested members. Do put the date in your diary.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable summer.

Helen Whitehouse July 2013

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 18th August 2013

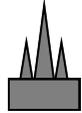
Walk along the Lichfield Canal to see the restoration work (organised by IWA Warwickshire Branch). Meet at 10:30am at the car park in Darnford Park, Lichfield. Close to the traffic lights at the junction of Ryknild Street with Tamworth Road A51 (GR SK133084). Peter Webb is leading the walk and Bob Williams will be the guide. The walk will last up to 2 hours. Further information from Peter Webb on 01926 422764 or email info.warwickshire@waterways.org.uk

Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Morning Walk around Alrewas and Fradley. The route is from Alrewas towards the River Tame, then along the towpath of the Coventry Canal, and returning through the village of Fradley. A mostly level walk with steps but no stiles, approximately 5 miles. Meet in Alrewas at the cricket ground. From the A513 Kings Bromley to Tamworth road take Fox Lane and 100m on left take Daisy Lane. Follow Daisy Lane onto The Cricketers and go to the end where there is ample free car parking. Meet at 10.00 am for a 10.15 start. Optional pub lunch afterwards at the George & Dragon. Leader Ed Rule. Further information from Ed on 01889 574122 or email lichfield@waterways.org.uk

Wednesday 18th September 2013

Illustrated talk on 'A River Cruise – Bourgoigne to the Mediterranean' by Patrick Marks. 7.30 for 7.45 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, WS13 8AY



Saturday & Sunday 21st-22nd September 2013

Branch stand at the Huddlesford Gathering. Organised by Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust. See LHCRT website at www.lhcrt.org.uk for details. If you can help us on our Branch stand please contact Helen Whitehouse on 01543 491161 or email helen.whitehouse@waterways.org.uk

Tuesday 1st October 2013

Walk at Hopwas Woods. A short pleasant 3 mile walk along the Coventry Canal and through the quiet mixed woodland of Hopwas Woods. Some steep sections of track but no stiles. Meet in the car park of The Tame Otter, Lichfield Road, Hopwas, nr Tamworth, B78 3AF. 10.15 am for a 10.30 start. Option of pub lunch at The Tame Otter. Leader Clive Walker. Further information from Clive on 01827 282298 or email lichfield@waterways.org.uk

Wednesday 16th October 2013

Illustrated talk on 'Canal Boats & Barges – From Tub Boats to Trows' by Tony Condor, former curator of the Waterways Museum, Gloucester. 7.30 for 7.45 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, WS13 8AY

Tuesday 5th November 2013

Morning Walk at Kingsbury Water Park. A gentle stroll around the Water Park and along the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal. Meet at the Dog & Doublet Inn, Dog Lane, Bodymoore Heath, Sutton Coldfield, B76 9JD at 10.15 for a 10.30am start. Optional lunch afterwards at the pub. Easy going and fairly level. Dogs on leads welcome. Leader Derek Beardsmore. Further information from Margaret Beardsmore on 07581 794111 or email margaret.beardsmore@waterways.org.uk

Wednesday 20th November 2013

Illustrated talk on 'Restoration Progress on the Grantham Canal' by Mike Stone, Chairman of the Grantham Canal Restoration Trust. 7.30 for 7.45 pm at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane (off Walsall Road), Lichfield, WS13 8AY

Wednesday 11th December 2013

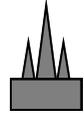
Branch Christmas Dinner & Social. 7.00 for 7.30 pm at "Oddfellows in the Boat", The Boat, Walsall Road, Summerhill, near Muckley Corner, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 0BU. (Map and directions at www.oddfellowsintheboat.com/find.php). Menu and ticket details t.b.a.

Mooring a Boat—Number One in a Series of Boat Handling Articles.

First published in and reproduced by kind permission of Canal Boat Magazine Words by Terry Robertson. Pictures Martin Ludgate of Canal Boat Magazine

Cruising our waterways, whether it is on canals or rivers, is enjoyable and relaxing, but there is always something to do – operating locks, swing and/or lift bridges, or mooring. This last operation is quite a simple task but to some it is the time when frustrations and tempers become stretched to the maximum as people take unnecessary risks resulting in injuries or at best looking daft.

How frequently have we seen a boat being pulled in – usually by the female crew – with instructions being shouted by the skipper – usually the male? Boating starts off by being simple, keep it simple, let the boat and the water do the work for you.



Mooring Technique

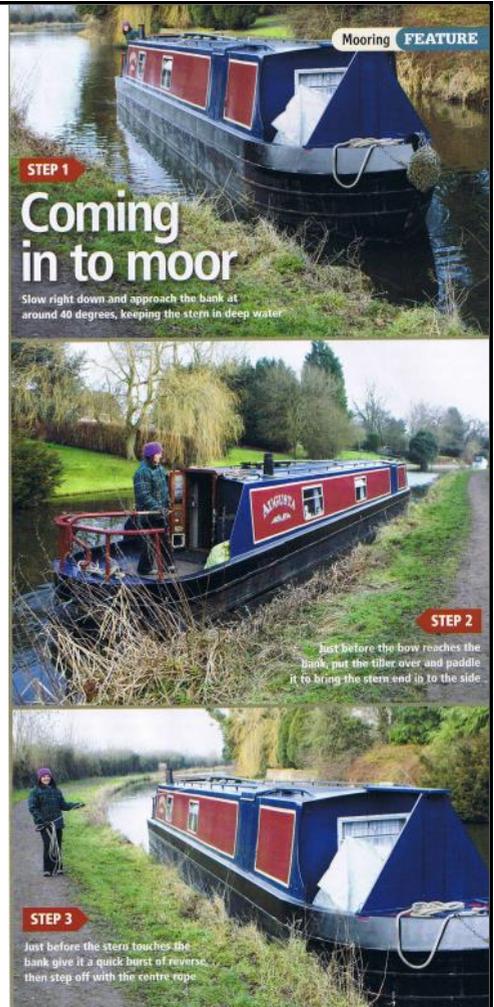
Whatever type of mooring - whether it's a designated visitor mooring with rings or bollards, or out in the middle of nowhere where you are relying on pins - the procedure is the same for all. On approach to the chosen mooring, slow the boat to its minimum speed until it is nearly stationary, then re-engage forward gear with just a little power and head the bow to the mooring at approximately 40 degrees. Just before the bow touches the bank, bring the stern in – paddling the tiller will help increase the steerage without taking the boat too far forward. Just before the stern touches the bank engage reverse gear with a short burst of power bringing the boat to a stop – the water going forward will act as a cushion between the boat and the bank. If you keep the power on too long you will start to “spring” the stern away from the bank.

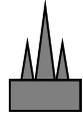
By approaching the bank at approximately 40 degrees, this will lessen the chance of going aground and possibly getting stuck. If you feel or hear the boat touch the bottom or any other obstruction below the water your stern will still be in deep water enabling you to reverse back into the deeper water.

Tying Up

With the boat stationary, (particularly if single handed) step off with the centre rope and secure the boat by looping the rope round a bollard or through a mooring ring (or take a mooring pin with you + mallet – always have one handy at the stern of the boat), you can then secure both bow and stern ropes without fear of the boat moving away. With one crew the above applies, but if there are two each can take a rope for both bow and stern. It is always best to tie the rope off, having looped it through a mooring ring or round a bollard, back onto the “dolly” or “T-stud” at the bow and stern. This means that when leaving the mooring all crew members can be on board because the ropes can be cleared from the boat.

Ropework is a necessary requirement for safe mooring. The most useful knot is a “boatman's hitch” – (sometimes called a canalman's hitch); alternatively two half-hitches will be OK but if there is a lot of passing boats, this can become very tight and difficult to undo. The same will apply if using bollards.





At non-visitor moorings you will need to use the pins, or hooks if the canal bank has piling, or chains which can be placed around the gaps in the piling at the cross member between the scallops in the piling..

When using a mooring pin insert it in the ground pointing towards the water but not too close to the edge or it may break through the bank and again have your rope going away from the boat at approximately 45degrees. If the pin has an eye welded to it pass the rope through the eye and tie off on the boat – if the mooring pin does pull out – often when passing boats are going too fast – the pin is still attached to the rope and will not be lost in the water. Remember to cover your mooring pins with something luminous which will be seen by passers by in the dark! They can hurt if walked into and can cause very nasty accidents – similarly do not take the mooring rope across the towpath.

Mooring hooks (piling hooks) can be used where there is piling, at the cross member of the piling run by putting the hook in so that it locks under the cross member, then put the rope through as before and finally secure it back on the bow and stern dollys.

When leaving the mooring, undo the rope from the boat but keep it through the mooring hook – if not the hook could drop into the water. Mooring chains are a useful alternative, again can be used where there is piling in the same way, putting the chain around the piling, then the rope through the chain and back onto the boat.

Centre Ropes

Whenever cruising have your centre rope on the roof of the boat lying towards the stern and on the side of the towpath – remember to change the rope to the other side when the towpath changes, or you have turned the boat round!

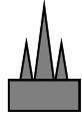
On wide beam boats it is better to have two centre ropes, one for each side of the boat as it may be more difficult to “flick” the rope from one side to the other across a 10ft to 12ft roof. If you keep your centre rope coiled in the centre of the roof it may look very “professional” and pretty, but when it is needed you have to walk along the gunwales to retrieve it and particularly if it is windy the boat might get blown off the mooring spot you have chosen before you have had time to secure it, or it might be so far away from the bank that a great leap onto the bank is required – this could result in an injury or falling into the water between bank and boat – not a very pleasant experience.

Rivers

When travelling downstream on rivers and you see a good mooring, you should always turn the boat upstream to go into it. You will have more control of the boat for mooring, particularly if the river is fast flowing. Always allow a little slack in the mooring ropes as the pound (or in the case of a river the reach) may rise or fall and you will want the boat to move accordingly.

Casting Off

On leaving the mooring undo the bow rope, coiling it onto the bow, then walk back to the stern, on the towpath, or on the gunwale, or if the boat is being blown off the mooring, through the interior of the boat (always keep the front doors unlocked). Untie the stern rope, putting it neatly back on the stern dolly; always coil your ropes and store them neatly where they are not going to get round your feet or fall into the water. Some boaters take the stern rope off the dolly and put it in a neat coil on the slide of the roof. It is safely out of the way there but still



easy to reach.

Rather than pushing the boat out, where it is possible for the person pushing to slip and fall in the water, you can “spring the stern out” under power which means you are letting the boat and the water do the work for you. Firstly position your tiller with the arm pointing towards the bank and put the boat into reverse gear. The water going forward will move the stern away from the bank. Now put the boat into neutral, straighten the tiller and engage forward gear putting the tiller to the opposite side and “paddle” it to increase the movement of the stern away from the bank. When the stern is approximately 10ft away from the bank engage reverse gear keeping the tiller to the far bank increase the power and the water going forward will start to move the bow away from the bank. As soon as this happens, put the boat into neutral, straighten the tiller, engage forward gear point the arm at the bank you have just left “paddling” it to bring the bow completely away from the bank.

Happy mooring and boating – remember the only way to go fast is to go slow!.

Raffle Prizes

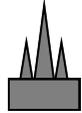
At our Branch meetings we hold a raffle which raises significant amounts of money to fund the cost of hiring the hall with any surplus going towards our projects. We badly need good quality raffle prizes to keep this going. If you have anything suitable please either bring them along to a meeting or contact Barbara Hodgson (see contact details on Page 14)

Help Needed By IWA Festivals

IWA have a small secure storage facility for items owned by IWA Festivals and the IWA Promotions & Communications committee. In it, we keep such things as IWA banners, small marquees, market stalls and WoW equipment. This store is in the vicinity of Barton under Needwood. From time to time, we loan out equipment to one of the branches to use at any event they may be organising and we need to call on some of our local members to help sort out the equipment. We could do with a small team of volunteers who could take it in turns to help with this task. The task is not particularly onerous and we would not anticipate needing to ask for your help for more than 2-3 hours, 2-3 times a year. We already have some very willing volunteers but we don't want to over use them!! If you live relatively close to Barton under Needwood and would like to know more about this, please contact Helen Whitehouse.

Special Offer on Lichfield Branch Polo Shirts

We still have a few IWA Unisex Polo Shirts in stock. We ordered these especially with the words “Lichfield Branch” underneath the IWA logo. We are selling these at the special price of £10.50 each whilst stocks last. The normal retail price of IWA polo shirts without the branch logo is £11.25. We have sizes small, medium, and XL in stock. If you would like one of these, please email iwaclothing@waterways.org.uk quoting “Lichfield Special Offer” or telephone 0776 6 687102. If you would like to order any other item of clothing with the Lichfield branch logo on it, please contact Helen Whitehouse.



Chasewater Walk - Wednesday 15th May 2013

After a day of heavy rain the sun came out for this evening walk around Chasewater Reservoir, led by Denis and Carol Cooper. Although there were lots of puddles the paths are firmly surfaced and several boardwalks led us dry shod across the edge of the reservoir and over some adjacent swampy areas. Since being drained for repairs, a year of exceptional rainfall means the reservoir is now brim full and once again fulfilling its main purpose in supplying water to the canal system, with the wildlife, sailing and watersports also steadily returning. From the visitor centre we skirted the shore of the lake to the Chasewater Railway and the Causeway where we paused to see the new culverts between the main reservoir and Jeffrey's Swag. An undulating route across



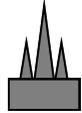
the heathland and swamps brought us to Pool Road and the main reservoir dam. From here the old valve house overlooks Anglesey Canal Basin although it is no longer used to control the water supply. The main new works here were in strengthening the dam wall and reducing leakage, and rebuilding the overflow weirs to ensure that Chasewater continues to supply water to the canals for another two centuries whilst also providing recreation and wildlife habitat.

(Photos by Phil Sharpe)

Skittles Evening—Stafford Boat Club 26th April 2013

We had struggled to put a team together for the annual inter-branch skittles challenge due to the event clashing with preparations for the Little Venice Cavalcade and eventually co-opted a branch member who happened to be leaning on the bar (thanks Barbs!). The team started disastrously ending up last after the first round however a brilliant second round saw us rise to the dizzy heights of third. It was a great evening with plenty of good food and the odd glass of wine and the chance to chat with members from the other branches. We look forward to next year and hopefully lifting the trophy.





Rugeley Community Work Party Sunday 23 June 2013 Margaret Beardsmore—Work Party Coordinator

We couldn't have picked a worse day for weather for the work party on Sunday 23 June at the Brindley Bank 'Bloody Steps' area in Rugeley. The rain had come down in bucket loads overnight and on the morning, the 'showers' turned into persistent rain that lasted into the afternoon.

Nonetheless, seven hardy souls turned out to cut the grass, do some more work on the historic tramway that was used to transfer coal from canal boats to the Pumping Station and remove Himalayan Balsam.



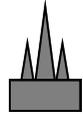
Himalayan Balsam reaches well over head height, and is a major weed problem, especially on riverbanks but can also invade gardens. It grows rapidly and spreads quickly, smothering other vegetation as it goes. In summer it produces small pink flower clusters which are followed by seed pods that open explosively when ripe. Last year the weed had already flowered by the time we removed it, and yet there was visibly less of it this year. As we have 'got at it' this year before it flowered we hope there will be very little to deal with in 2014.

We were all soaked to the skin by the end of the morning, but went home feeling it was a job well done!

Following on from the Work Party some metal detecting was done on July 6th to try and determine the full extent of the Tramway. This showed that it is still present at the entrance to the Pumping Station but not inside the fence around the station. Further Work Parties will hopefully uncover and preserve the Tramway for the future.

New helpers are always welcome at the Work Parties—the weather is not usually as bad as in June and the cake is pretty good!

Contact Margaret on 07581 794111 or email margaret.beardsmore@waterways.org.uk or keep an eye on our branch web site at www.waterways.org.uk/lichfield



New Tesco Supermarket in Rugeley

As part of the planning conditions for the new supermarket Tesco are providing funding for local community projects in Rugeley. Some of this windfall will be spent on the Trent and Mersey canal towpath and surrounding area. The area to benefit is nearer the town centre than our project area of Brindley Bank and St Augustine's Field but is very welcome never the less.

The preliminary list (not confirmed yet) is

- New access at Bridge 66 to tie into the pedestrianized levels over the bridge.
- New parapet copings over Bridge 66.
- Hedgerow planting Bridge 66 heading towards Brereton , Formalising of access point at same location.
- Upgraded towpath from Bridge 66 to the railway Bridges.
- Resurfacing of moorings at Bridge 66 and beyond.
- The rest of the funding to be spent on resurfacing the towpath (including Wash Walls where needed) and possibly creation of more formal moorings.

C&RT Waterways Renaissance Awards

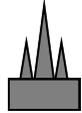
IWA Lichfield Branch's ongoing Rugeley Canalside Regeneration Project has been named as Runner-Up in the Partnership Category and Commended in the Community Category of the prestigious Waterways Renaissance Awards. Our entry was up against some major multi-million pound projects from all over the country so this is a fantastic recognition of the efforts of our small group of enthusiastic volunteers led by Margaret and Derek. Margaret and Derek Beardsmore have led the project from its inception in 2010 and are pictured receiving the two awards at a presentation ceremony at the ICC in Birmingham on 23rd May.

The project has achieved a series of improvements to the Trent & Mersey Canal through Rugeley supported by a broad community partnership.

The Waterways Renaissance Awards, organised by the Canal & River Trust, recognise exceptional projects that are helping to care for canals and rivers across the UK.



Photo courtesy Canal & River Trust



Pelsall Rally 15th-16th June 2013

Lichfield Branch organised and manned the Wild over Waterways (WoW) activities at the Pelsall Rally staged by the Birmingham Canal Navigations Society (BCNS).

Our small marquee was erected in a strong wind, but with Helen's expert guidance all was well and it survived the rain and wind overnight.

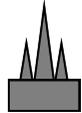
Saturday morning weather was fine, if a little



blow but the newly acquired WOW Activity Box proved very useful with duck headbands, paper plate colouring and brass rubbing all being used to full extent. A fun day with lots of laughs from the children and chats about the local canals with adults. The "Lucky dip" for sweets proved popular with both juniors and seniors.

Sunday another fine day with lots of people around, more duck headbands, and paper plates, not too much brass rubbing, but another fun day with help on both days from Margaret, Heather Blackmore and most certainly from Margaret's Grand-Daughter, Holly who was the "Leader" of the pack.

The BCNS should be congratulated on putting on a very sociable, worthwhile weekend, and even the weather stayed quite good.



Crick Boat Show 25th-27th May 2013

The Crick Boat Show is well outside our area but some of our Branch members were helping on the IWA stand over the weekend. The weather was a definite improvement over last year with the sun shining for most of the weekend. This had a significant effect on the attendance and the stand was kept busy for the whole of the weekend with some of the items on sale running out of stock. The show itself was also very busy with lots of boats and traders plus Craft and Food Stalls giving everybody the chance to chat with people in the sunshine.

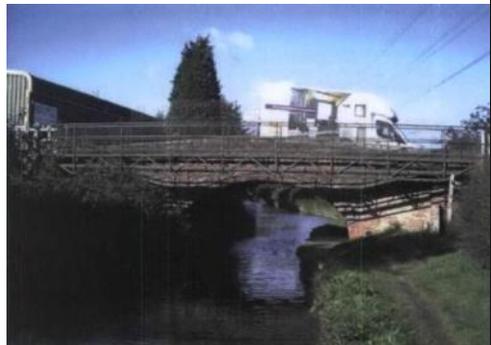


Planning Matters—Phil Sharpe - Branch Planning Officer

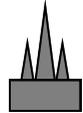
Over the last three months over 70 planning applications, local plan consultations and other planning matters have been dealt with and these are all summarised in the monthly notes on the Planning page of our Branch website. The more significant ones are noted below.

On the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal the County Council are planning to demolish and replace the footbridge alongside the Grade II Listed St Thomas Bridge 101 at Baswich, Stafford. We have welcomed the replacement of the present unattractive bridge with the new one to an improved design.

On the Trent & Mersey Canal at Burton-on-Trent, a detached house on land most recently used for boatbuilding alongside Horninglow Basin has been approved. At Fradley Junction an application by the Kingfisher Holiday Park to extend their operating season from 8 to 12 months raised safety issues about traffic congestion on the towpath but has been permitted, although for holiday accommodation only and not residential use. We have also commented on this issue in responding to the draft Fradley Junction Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, and suggested other improvements.



Current Baswich Lane Bridge



On the Coventry Canal, also near Fradley, developers have applied to build 250 houses and a pub/restaurant at land off Hay End Lane in two large fields on the western side of the village. Although designated in the Local Plan now undergoing Examination, we continue to argue that any additional housing should be on the 'brownfield' land of the old airfield, south of the canal. At Hademore near Whittington an 86 metre high wind turbine is proposed on a canalside farm already noted for its extensive use of polytunnels and we consider it to be too large for this location.

Further South on the Coventry Canal, the planners have finally caught up with a series of unauthorised developments off Quarry Lane, Mancetter where a field was sold off in strips with canal frontages some 20 years ago. A Certificate of Lawfulness for a residential narrowboat has been granted and a retrospective application has been made for use of existing sheds for a boat fitting business. Meanwhile, the North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan proposes 3 new development sites affecting the Coventry Canal. At Atherstone we have objected to an employment site on both sides of the canal between the A5 and Holly Lane which could damage the attractiveness of this section for overnight mooring, and asked for screening, working hours and noise restrictions if it should be allocated. A small housing area on the southern edge of Atherstone could be made acceptable by reinforcing existing hedge and tree screening. Another housing site on the eastern edge of Polesworth could be intrusive although potentially mitigated by good design and landscaping.

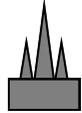
The HS2 High Speed Rail proposals continue to cause concern, and several meetings with HS2 Ltd, C&RT and affected canal restoration scheme

representatives have been held. The Phase 1 Draft Environmental Statement consultation confirms the damaging effects on the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal at Curdworth, the Lichfield Canal and Lichfield Cruising Club at Cappers Lane, and in particular the Trent & Mersey around Woodend Lock. It also reveals a massive construction compound on both sides of the Coventry Canal between Huddlesford and Streethay and surrounding the new Kings Orchard Marina. The Branch has contributed to the national IWA response and submitted a Branch response,

which is consistent with the national one but includes much more detail about the local issues. We have opposed a suggested canal diversion and continue to advocate an alternative rail alignment at Woodend avoiding the canal crossings altogether.



View from Steppingstones Bridge that will be affected by HS2



On the Wyrley & Essington Canal, proposals for replacing Yorks Bridge at Pelsall have been changed to retain the existing bridge alongside the new one. We have supported a proposed car park to improve access to the common and suggested how towpath access could best be improved. The Walsall Site Allocation consultation includes several 'Choices Sites' which would affect the Wyrley & Essington and Rushall canals. Large housing sites in the Green Belt at Sandhills (Brownhills) at Yorks Bridge (Pelsall) and around Winterley Lane and Bosty Lane (Rushall) as well as a smaller site at Longwood Lane are not justified, and several other suggested canalside sites should preferably be retained as open space, but any development should respect the canal frontage.

On the Ashby Canal the plans of the facilities and workshop buildings for the new Bosworth Marina have been revealed. In Hinckley a housing development on the old Greyhound Stadium site has been approved, as has a large food factory extending the industrial estate area north of The Limekilns.

Newsletter Distribution

The escalating cost of postage means that Lichfield Branch increasingly relies on email to keep members informed of events and news affecting our area. Would members therefore please ensure that the IWA is aware of their up-to-date email addresses by contacting either Tracy Higgins at membershipofficers@waterways.org.uk or Neil Hodgson at neil.hodgson@waterways.org.uk as soon as possible.

If you are also happy to receive future copies of Lichfield Lines by email rather than post, please tell Neil.

West Midlands Region Vacancy

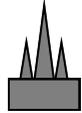
IWA West Midlands Region has vacancies for a magazine editor and a web master.

Following the decision by each branch to issue its own newsletters, the region's magazine, Navigation, has now become an annual review of the Region's activities. The magazine will aim to contain more articles of an historical nature on waterways within the region with just a couple of pages providing the notices of the Annual General Meetings and other related matters.

We would welcome interest from any members in the West Midlands Region, who can volunteer two to three hours a month, who are able to both write articles and sub-edit submitted work, with a view to collating and formatting the texts for publication over the Christmas and New Year period.

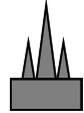
Whilst each branch in West Midlands Region maintains its own pages on the website, there are also pages for the region that would be enhanced by input from a regional webmaster. The region would welcome interest from any members in the West Midlands Region, who have experience with website editing (using a content management system), or the willingness to learn, to add and update information on the region pages. Appropriate training on the systems used will be given.

If you are interested in either of these roles please contact Vaughan Welch, West Midlands Region Chairman, at vaughan.welch@waterways.org.uk, by 9th August.



Your Committee

Chairman, Sales and External Talks Helen Whitehouse Virginia Cottage, Brook End, Longdon, Rugeley, WS15 4PD	Tel: 01543 491161 Email: helen.whitehouse@waterways.org.uk
Secretary Kaye Harrison 1 Blue House Barns, Chetwynd Road, Newport, Shrops TF10 7UE	Tel: 07973 281728 Email: kaye.harrison@waterways.org.uk
Treasurer Barbara Hodgson 12 Hempits Grove, Acton Trussell, Stafford ST17 0SL	Tel: 01785 716806 Email: barbara.hodgson@waterways.org.uk
Deputy Chairman & Speaker Liaison Pat Barton 38 Waterside Court, Gnosall, Staffs ST20 6AR	Tel: 07947 337491 Email: pat.barton@waterways.org.uk
Planning & Website Philip Sharpe 34 Old Eaton Road, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2EZ	Tel: 01889 583330 Email: phil.sharpe@waterways.org.uk
Publicity John Stockland 203 Tamworth Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 6DX	Tel: 0121 308 0293 Email: john.stockland@waterways.org.uk
Membership Neil Hodgson 12 Hempits Grove, Acton Trussell, Stafford ST17 0SL	Tel: 01785 716806 Email: neil.hodgson@waterways.org.uk
Newsletter Editor and Posters Pete Gurney 5 Bracken Close, Stafford ST16 1SG	Tel: 01785 255101 Email: pete.gurney@waterways.org.uk
Rugeley Project Margaret Beardsmore 6 Rishworth Avenue, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2ER	Tel: 07581 794111 Email: margaret.beardsmore@waterways.org.uk
Ex Officio: Region Vaughan Welch 3 Beach Close, Northfield, Birmingham B31 3DB	Tel: 0121 477 9782 Mob: 07971 202406 Email: vaughan.welch@waterways.org.uk



TR
BOAT
HANDLING



RYA RECOGNISED TEACHING ESTABLISHMENT

The ideal present that lasts forever

1,2 and 3 day RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman courses aboard our training boat SHROPSHIRE LASS, or on your own craft.

RYA Certificate on successful completion of the course for both beginners and the experienced from £95.00 per student.

Also available: ICC and CEVNI assessments for boating in Europe.

Friendly and Understanding Instructor

A few comments from satisfied customers:

“Thank you for a fantastic day. Your guidance, gentle coaxing and patience got the best from both of us”

“The course was conducted in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and was complimented by tips from you that cannot be found in the tuition book”

BOOK YOUR COURSE NOW

TELEPHONE TERRY ON MOBILE- 07947 337492

Email: shropshirelass@trboating.fsnet.co.uk

Website: www.trboathandling.com