

Newport Canal Work Parties



come and help us with maintenance work on the Newport stretch of the canal

Every first Saturday of the month 10am - 4pm

If you are planning to come along please confirm the date, location and time with

Steve Heise

Email: sheise@sncanal.org.uk
Telephone: 01952 273820

Shrewsbury Canal Work Parties



help with clearance work along the line of the historic Shrewsbury Canal

Every last Saturday of the month 10am - 4pm

If you are planning to come along please confirm the date, time and location with

Derek Hillaby

Email: dhilaby@sncanal.org.uk
Telephone: 01743 709263

Wappenshall Wharf Work Parties



do your bit for the restoration of these historic canal buildings, basin and canal

Every third Saturday of the month 10am - 4pm

If you are planning to come along please confirm the date and time with

Julie Harris

Email: jharris@sncanal
Telephone: 07702 465190

ITEMS FOR S&N NEWS

Next issue 51/4 2013 published 6th November 2013

Please get your copy to us three weeks before publication

John Myers,

18 Meadow Lane, Derrington, Staffordshire ST18 9NA

email: editor@sncanal.org.uk

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The Editor reserves the right to edit copy supplied to the newsletter

S&N News

The quarterly newsletter of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust

Issue 50/3 2013



What the S&N canals could look like... a view of the Shropshire Union Canal taken from the Norbury Boat Festival trip boat

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Photo: © Richard
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Showing off!



Working to restore the canals in partnership with the
Norbury to Newport Canal Restoration CIC



from the editor

On the 9th July I attended the first AGM of the Canal & River Trust (CRT) at the National Waterway Museum, Ellesmere Port on behalf of the SNCT. I last visited the museum about 10 years ago and it has changed and improved a lot since then, with fantastic displays in the old warehouses and a lot of boats from the national collection on show - a really fascinating place for a day out.

It was interesting to hear *Richard Perry*, the new CRT Chief Executive telling us how his railway background makes him a good CEO for a waterway organisation but the most exciting speaker was *Vince Moran*, the CRT's Operations & Technical Director. He outlined how the movement from part of DEFRA to a charity has worked well financially as the CRT has not had its budget cut over the last year, unlike the rest of Whitehall. Indeed, when the next round of government department cuts start in 2015 the CRT's grant will go up by 33% and this will finance increased repairs and things like dredging. For the first time they can now have confidence in future funding and are planning accordingly.

I talked to a lot of useful people from the IWA and from other canal restoration trusts and attended a very informative workshop on restoration jointly hosted by the CRT and the IWA. All in all a very useful day from which I learned a lot and met some interesting new contacts.

John Myers, Editor



note from the chair

So another 3 months have passed. What's been going on within the Trust and the world of canal restoration in the meantime then? Well, for a start I am delighted to report that the *Inland Waterways Association (IWA)* and the *Canal and River Trust (CRT)*, which had its first anniversary on 12 July, have at long last joined forces on the canal restoration front.

I attended an excellent joint CRT/IWA workshop at *Aston University* on 18th May where the two organisations agreed to work in partnership to provide strategic support for a sustainable expansion of the canal network. Who would have thought we would hear that 12 months ago! Have a look at: https://www.waterways.org.uk/information/crt_iwa_workshop/crt_iwa_workshop_18052013 for outcomes and actions.

Also, we are now within an ace of acquiring our "tug" from CRT. Watch the website for news on this in the near future.

Eighty two members attended the AGM on 15 June. Please see report elsewhere in this issue.

Work parties have continued in *Shrewsbury, Wappenshall and Newport* and much more canal can be seen! Many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard at these events. If you have not yet been to one, do please come along and join in the fun!

Perhaps one of the highlights in the past three months though has been the acquisition of the *Price Follows Trailer Boat*



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"JUSFASHOW" on permanent loan. I am extremely grateful to *Andy Price and Frank* for the loan of this excellent piece of kit, with which we managed to obtain First Place in the Newport Carnival! It will be a real asset to Trust events and work parties in the future, so if you have not seen it yet, why not come to the next Wappenshall Work Party and look her over?

Lastly, thanks to the Mayor of Telford, *Leon Murray*, and his connections with the *Grimmitt Trust*, I am pleased to report that I have received a cheque for £2,500 towards the restoration and development of the Wappenshall site. Leon has secured similar six - monthly payments for the next three years, thereby making a total of £15,000. Excellent news!

Bernie Jones

3/4

Norbury to Newport Canal Restoration CIC

The **Norbury to Newport Canal Restoration CIC** was formed in 2011 to restore the canal along Telford's line, bringing back into use the locks, pathways and bridges which existed originally. Since then we have been working hard to get restoration under way. Our restoration plans cover two phases at present.

Phase 1 is a short stretch of canal at Forton, from the Skew Bridge to the Aqueduct, to be returned to water with the adjacent areas made available for leisure activities.

Phase 2 will see the canal from Meretown Bridge to the next bridge near the northern end of Moss Pool returned to water, with the towpath re-opened.

Each of these projects has presented us with different problems to overcome before they can be completed and we recognise that there will be hold-ups in progress.

But, by working on two active projects simultaneously, we hope to be able to move ahead with one or the other over coming months.

The Phase 1 and 2 restoration plans mean that local leisure facilities for those living in Newport will be created alongside the canal, with new walking and cycling routes linking up to existing lanes and with the additional benefit of improving and expanding the canal-side habitat for many species of fauna and flora.

The CIC is not alone in working on the restoration - we co-operate very closely with the **Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust** (SNCT) whose remit is to restore the whole length of the canals to their terminus in Shrewsbury. Getting the canal back into operation from the Junction Inn at Norbury through to Newport is an important goal for both the CIC and the Trust.

*Adrienne Barnwell,
 Norbury to Newport Canal Restoration CIC*

Dates for your Diary

Please also watch the website for updates and further details (Events page).

- **Display in the entrance of Waitrose, Newport**
13-14 September
Volunteers needed contact Steve Heise: 01952 273820
- **Trustees Meeting**
19th September
 Royal Naval Club, Newport
- **Whitchurch Boat Rally**
21-22 September
 Whitchurch Shropshire
Volunteers needed contact John Myers: 01785 255263
- **Table Top Sale**
28th September
 Wappenshall Wharf
See advert in right hand column)

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

NEWPORT

- **Wednesday 4 September 2013**
 7.30pm. British Legion Club
 Audley Road, Newport TF10 7DP
Contact: Steve Heise 01952 273820

TELFORD

- **Monday 12 August 2013 at 7.30**
 The Elephant and Castle
 1 High Street, Dawley TF2 9JQ
Contact: Julie Harris 01952 608119

SHREWSBURY

- **Tuesday 27 August 2013 at 7-30**
 Meole Brace Bowling Club,
 Meole Rise, off Upper Road,
 Meole Brace,
 Shrewsbury SY3 9JF
Contact: Derek Hillaby 01743 709263

TABLE TOP SALES AND CRAFTS

**WAPPENSHALL WHARF,
 WELLINGTON TF6 6DE**
SEPTEMBER 28th, (table top stalls)
NOVEMBER 23rd (table top and craft stalls) - 10am-2pm
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All in support of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust

The table top sale in June was a great success and everyone who had a table was pleased with the day. Being under cover meant that the occasional showers didn't dampen the occasion and we all enjoyed ourselves.

The next sale will be on September 28th from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm at Wappenshall Wharf.

We have had requests from a few people to sell their crafts at one of our table top sales so the **November sale will be a TABLE TOP AND CRAFTS SALE.**

If you are a 'crafty' sort of person and would like to sell your wares, or even if you just want to get rid of stuff, to book a table please contact *Sallie Lines* on **01952 501525** or **sallielines@gmail.com.**

The November Sale will be an ideal time to sell crafts in time for Christmas and to buy Christmas presents, so whether you want to book a table or not, please come along and support the Trust.

A Constructive year for SNCT

The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust AGM was held on Saturday 15 June at Wappenshall. Bernie Jones, chairman of SNCT, welcomed the members and our distinguished guests including the Mayors of Newport and Telford and the Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury, reflecting the support we are now receiving right along the length of the canals. Proceedings opened with guest speaker *Richard Vobes*, the “Bald Explorer”, who talked about his recent experiences whilst filming his television documentary on the S&N canals and he gave us his own very particular take on them.

The AGM started promptly at 12 noon and Bernie Jones gave his report followed by the approval of the annual accounts and the election of the Trustees for the coming year.

After lunch, speakers from the North Wales and Borders area of the Canal and River Trust talked about various aspects of the CRT’s first year in action and how things have changed in their various fields, covering operations, volunteering, asset management and environmental management. After a break Alistair Price lead a walk along the Trench Arm to view the unique guillotine locks.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman *Bernie Jones* started with some pictures of the Trust’s activities and highlights over the year giving a flavour of the tremendous work that many members had put in over that time. *Bernie* then went on to outline the work done by Trustees to gain over £15,000 in grants and sponsorship in this period and the spadework being put in to prepare our re-bid to the HLF and for EU funding.

There were also the many fund raising activities that individuals have worked hard to organise. From table top sales, inkjet cartridge

recycling, postage stamp collecting, scrap metal collecting, to sponsored walks and auctions, all of which had raised the magnificent sum of over £4,000.

But it was a year of building relationships too. We have been involved with landowners and businesses, schools, Telford College of Arts and Technology, universities, local authorities, Newport Regeneration Partnership, Canal and River Trust, angling clubs, IWA/WRG, Natural England, RSPB and Wildlife Trusts. These relationships are critical for moving our restoration project forward.

One of the year’s major achievements was the record number of members now part of the Trust, over 1100 at the time of the AGM. But *Bernie* asked everyone to go out and recruit just one more member each, so that he could report next year that we have over 2000 members. This would provide him with even greater leverage when applying to funding bodies to get the much needed money to move things forward.

Looking to the future, *Bernie* emphasised the following milestones that he intended that the Trust should achieve in the coming 12 months: HLF bid for Wappenshall, Oral Archive project progress, Shrewsbury Information Panels project completion, Forton section rewatering (with CIC), obtain a boat for restoration and progress on an EU funding bid.

He ended his report by quoting the CRT:

- Every year 10 million people make 160 million visits to waterways.
- Half the population of Britain lives within 5 miles of one of CRT canals or rivers.
- 80% of schools are less than 10 miles from one of our waterways.

The CRT has now firmly set it’s focus on restoration.



Speakers and guests at the AGM



Captions to photographs clockwise:
 • Chairman Bernie Jones welcomes members to the AGM • Beverley Baker Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury, Tony Forrester Mayor of Newport, Mrs Chris Forrester, Mrs Murray (obscured), Leon Murray Mayor of Telford • Richard Vobes aka. ‘The Bald Explorer’ talks about our canals and becoming a ‘film’ maker • Wendy Capelle of the CRT outlines their operation • Paul Corner talks about volunteering with the CRT • Joe Murphy explains how the CRT’s assets are maintained • Cath Ferguson talks about the CRT environmental management • the Mayor of Telford, Leon Murray, announces that we have been awarded a generous grant from the Grimmitt Trust.

World's first iron-framed building secures major Lottery investment



The recent press statement from the HLF, reproduced below, confirming Heritage Lottery Funding for the Flax Mill is excellent news for the SNCT. The Flax Mill is a key feature on the Shrewsbury Canal and plans for the regeneration of the site include the waterfront area

Shrewsbury's historic *Flax Mill Maltings* has received a grant of £12.8m from the *Heritage Lottery Fund* (HLF) to support the conservation and redevelopment of the world's first iron-framed building, it was announced today.

The funding will be put towards the first phase of the redevelopment of the *Flax Mill Maltings* site, which will restore and bring back into a third century of productive use some of the main historic buildings on the site, including the Main Mill - which is the world's first iron-framed building - the Kiln, the Dye and Stove House, and the Office and Stables.

Space will be opened up for commercial and community use, including exhibition space for visitors to learn about the building's place in social and international history.

Work is set to begin on site in October 2013 and be completed in early 2016, meaning that the site could be open to the public, and be the workplace for hundreds of people, by spring 2016.

Situated on the northern edge of Shrewsbury, the internationally-important *Flax Mill Maltings* site reflects a time when Shropshire led the way in engineering innovation. It comprises seven listed buildings, including the Main Mill, which was built in 1797 and is the world's first iron-framed building and the forerunner of the modern skyscraper.

The site was a flax mill from 1797 until 1897, and then a maltings until its closure in 1987. *English Heritage* took over the site in 2005.

The bid was submitted by a partnership of Shropshire Council, English Heritage, the Friends of the Flaxmill Maltings and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Reyahn King, Head of HLF West Midlands, said: "The listed buildings at the *Flax Mill Maltings* encapsulate the very best of British innovation and excellence in engineering and as the forerunner of skyscrapers the Main Mill is of international architectural importance. *Shropshire Council's* plans are now set to transform this historic site into a centre for learning, leisure and business enterprise.

"I can't think of a better use of *Heritage Lottery Fund* money than to celebrate and reuse our industrial past in such a well-thought out and exciting project."

Councillor Mal Price, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for Built Environment, said: "Securing this funding from HLF is brilliant news and means that our plans to bring the *Flax Mill Maltings* site back to life will finally become a reality.

"This news is testament to the success of a unique partnership that has been working together for the last few years to develop our plans for the site and to put together this significant funding bid.

"The development and regeneration of the site will provide a huge boost not just to this area of Shrewsbury, but to the town as a whole, and to the Shropshire economy. So while the success of our bid is great news for the partners,

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it is also tremendous news for Shrewsbury, for Shropshire and for everyone who has supported our plans to develop the site."

Alan Mosley, Chairman of the Friends of the Flaxmill Maltings, said: "This is fabulous news which will mean so much to all the hard working Friends who have contributed massively to the success.

"Apart from protecting and opening up our internationally important heritage to the public, the grant will bring tremendous, and much needed, investment, jobs, services, community facilities and hence, regeneration to the area.

"Local people have really got behind this project and they, alongside the friends, other partners and supporters, can have great pride in their achievement."

Chris Smith, National Planning and Conservation Director at English Heritage, said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund's

announcement is wonderful news, and will ensure that this internationally-important site can now move with certainty into its third century of economic and community use. The partnership, which I have had the privilege to chair over this very difficult economic period, can now look forward not only to restore these wonderful buildings, but also to see the regeneration benefits that this will bring to the local area."

Nick Rees, Homes and Communities Agency Area Manager Midlands West, said: "This great example of a partnership coming together to save an historic landmark of national significance has been recognised by the announcement of Heritage Lottery Funding. This, together with the funding already secured from the HCA and others, will help to bring the world's first iron framed building into productive use once again, through a combination of commercial space, job opportunities and fantastic community facilities."



The SNCT Oral History Project is a small group of people interested in the history of our local canals and we are keen to capture the memories of anyone who remembers them being in water. If you are one of those people (maybe you walked to school along the towpath or fished from it?) then please get in touch with:

Magaret Cann, SNCT Archivist,
telephone: **01743 362444**
or mobile: **07703 540553**
email: **mcann@sncanal.org.uk**

Derek Taylor interviews Val Harris
about her memories living by the Shrewsbury Canal.

I was born at No. 3 Fargarden Place, Ditherington, Shrewsbury in 1940. That was a little collection of cottages that nestled by Comet Bridge within spitting distance of the Maltings buildings. I could see the Flax Mill from my bedroom window. The Comet Bridge, to a very young child seemed like an enormous big hump bridge that the canal went under. My front garden was right at the bottom of the bridge as it flattened out. We were in No 3, which was the middle of a little terrace, No.1 was round the back and No. 5 was separated from the rest of us. It was on the bend of the canal and had a circular kitchen and bedroom.

The Comet Inn was on the other side of the bridge. The back of the houses looked on to the canal, the front looked on to the

Ditherington Road. My Mum and Dad moved there when my Dad had a job at the Midland Red garage and I think it was about May 1935. I left Fargarden Place when I was about 9 or 10. Very early memories, quite sparse really. Can't remember any boats at all on the canal. In the section that was from the Comet Bridge to the Maltings the water level wasn't very high. I can remember things like bikes being in it and it being really messy. There was still water in it but it was quite muddy but lots of things were thrown into it. It was used to get rid of things. I can't remember being allowed to go along the section of towpath behind the house. The other section on the other side of the Comet Bridge I can remember, had a towpath where I learnt to ride my bike when I was about five and as children being allowed to walk along the towpath. We could cycle to Uffington.

I can remember the really bad winter of 1947. We had our sledge. My cousin and I were pulled along to Uffington and that was great fun but we had to walk back because my dad had half a tree on it, for fuel, because in 1947 the winter was very bad and I remember we ran out of coal. The canal was frozen all the way along to Uffington for quite a long time and I can remember we did that on more than one occasion.

PHOTOGRAPH REQUEST

Our archives do not have a picture of the *Comet Bridge* or the houses described in Val's story, which have now been demolished. If you have an old photograph please send it to:

John Stevens
11 Roe Deer Green
Newport, Shropshire
TF10 7 JQ

or a scan to: graphics@sncanal.org.uk
Your original photograph will be returned.

Letters (or emails) to the Editor



**John Myers, 18 Meadow Lane,
Derrington, Staffordshire ST18 9NA**
✉: editor@sncanal.org.uk



Sunday night regulars at the Canal Tavern, Shrewsbury

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the article about the *Canal Tavern* in an old issue of S&N News that I collected at the Shropshire County Show. I guess that there has been some development since then, as I have been told the property now has a board advertising forthcoming apartments. Pity about that, I would have loved to see it as an information centre or museum.

The same newsletter is requesting photographs so I am sending you this one. It is a group of the Sunday night regulars in, I think, 1971. The chap in the white shirt at the front is Stan, the piano playing landlord and the lady standing behind his right shoulder is Joyce, the landlady.

*Yours faithfully,
Mrs. Dorothy Hulme
former Sunday night regular!*

New Members

We welcome the following new members

- N R Jones**, Astley, Telford
Angela & Richard Knisely-Marpole, Buxton
Max & Sue Prestwood, Craven Arms
Edna & John Holder, Withington
Christine Sheard, Dorrington
James Gollins & Hannah Royle, Shrewsbury
Alan & Sheila Curran, Donnington
Norman Cooper, Hollinswood, Telford
Alan Jones, Newport
Steve Phipps & Caroline Cheal, Edgmond
Robert & Patricia Alker, Gnosall
Andrew & Kelly Alexander, Priorslee
Greenfields WI, Shrewsbury
Carol & Anthony Clarkson & Family, Shrewsbury
Nina Williams, Shrewsbury
Gwen & Philip Scott, Shrewsbury
William Waring, Newport
Brian Hodgkinson, Newport
Glyn Foulkes, Norwich
Gwyneth Bowyer, Bayston Hill
Sam Passmore, Kim Gilmour & Family, Priorslee
H Willows, K Palling & Family, St Martins
Julia & David Baines, Wellington
Mr V & Mrs P. Price, Lilleshall
Mr Fred Dillow, Leegomery
Mark & Jenny Hunter, Shrewsbury
Jennifer Stanley, Shrewsbury

A Quaint Touch of Holland Between the Wrekin and the Ercall

by LILIAN HAYWARD - *Seen from the Towpath - a fourth instalment*

Apologies, we are out of sequence with this story. It should have followed the first story featured in issue 47/4. This piece was originally published as part of a series of walks in the *Shropshire Magazine* (www.shropshiremagazine.com) in the late '50s/early '60s and subsequently reproduced by Shropshire Libraries in the book "*Shropshire Canals*" in 1980. This article contains inaccuracies but no corrections have been made to the original text. Although the Trust has made efforts to locate the writer, Lilian Hayward, we have been unable to do so.

To return to Berwick Wharf or rather to the bridge beyond it, where we broke off our first walk. You can take the hourly Wellington 'bus service, get off at Atcham, and walk up the road past Attingham Park.

As an alternative, you can go by train to Upton Magna. Several trains stop at this station in the morning, but only one in the afternoon. Those who do not know Upton Magna may think it worth while to look round the village (half a mile away) and visit the Church. Not far away Forge Bridge, over the Tern, recalls the old forge where were forged the links of the suspension bridge over the Menai Straits, the famous bridge designed by Telford and largely cast by William Hazledine, the Shrewsbury ironfounder.

I will assume that you are back at the canal bridge where the first walk ended. All the

bridges have numbers. This one is No. 37. The towpath is now on the right (S.E.) side of the canal. Norah and I started this walk on a beautiful June day. We met the same family of swans: the cygnets had grown a good deal. We saw several other swans later in the day but no more cygnets. We soon had a fine view of the conspicuous tower of Upton Magna Church.

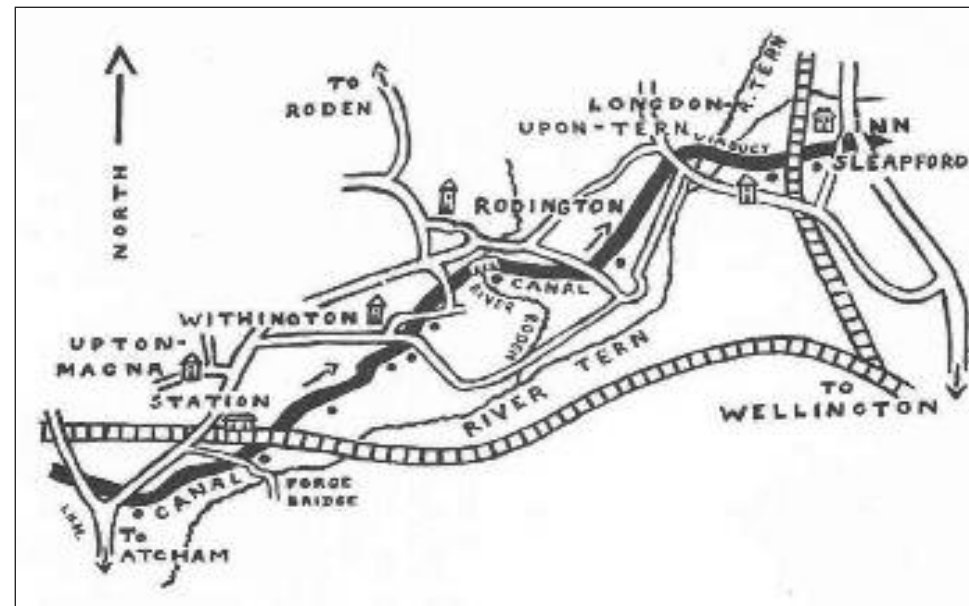
We passed under a number of bridges, including one or two of the picturesque draw-bridges - tall wooden contraptions, made of heavy beams worked by chains or wheels. They give quite a foreign effect.

Most of the road bridges are of brick, covered with a grey substance, so that in the distance they look like stone. Where farm tracks or footpaths cross the canal they are often made of woodwork, sometimes rustic work, but some of them have been replaced with concrete, not nearly so attractive.

Then there are iron bridges, some very plain in, others of ornamental wrought-iron work. These fanciful bridges are generally to be found where the canal runs through some important estate.

At first Norah thought that it would be interesting to take a photograph of every different kind of bridge, but we found such a surprising number of types that the original idea would have been too heavy on films.

A pied fly-catcher showed itself. Butterflies and dragon flies flew along beside us. For about a quarter of a mile, a large shoal of fish swam along. A heap of broken snail



shells showed where a thrush had been at work. Norah had hard work to keep her list of water plants. She normally walks much faster than myself, so she was able to linger over the water plants and to catch me up as I plodded along.

Withington looks like a Dutch picture, the houses grouped around the red-sandstone spired church, seen across the canal. The church contains two interesting brasses: one (1515) to John and Joan Onley, with seven children and a very strange elephant as an armorial bearing. The other brass is to Adam Grafton, who was incumbent here (1530). He was a great Pluralist, for, besides holding three livings, he was Master of Battlefield College, a Canon, a Prebendary, a Dean, an Archdeacon, and Chaplain to two of the royal Princes.

It is worth while to walk through Withington, which contains several pretty black-and-white houses, and to re-cross the canal and return to the towpath at the end of the village.

Another mile-and-a-half brought us to Rodington, on the River Roden. The church was built in 1851, and does not contain much of interest, but it stands in a good position in the middle of the village, above a grass plot called the Bull Ring.

Near the Roden we met Mr. Parker, of Riverside House. He invited us to look at his very large garden, of 2½ acres, which he cultivates almost unaided, selling his produce in Shrewsbury. The garden was beautifully neat, everything growing well. It is one of those pleasant gardens where apple trees break the lines of the crops, and it is full of surprises.

Rodington is a small village but it has many amenities: two inns, a butcher, several drapers and grocers, a blacksmith and a wheelwright. Mr. Parker has a car for hire, and there is a 'bus service to and from Shrewsbury three times a week (the Green 'bus, which serves Withington also).

Tea can be had at the inns, but we had ours

at the house of Mrs. Gourlay, Mr. Parker's daughter. The house is close to the canal, and was once an inn, catering for the people on the canal boats.

We left Rodington, much invigorated by an excellent tea. We crossed the Roden by a short aqueduct; here the canal and towpath are on the top of a bridge with three arches. We looked down on to the leaning fragments of what was once Rodington Hall.

The canal was running south-east, when it suddenly made a sharp bend and turned north-east. We saw various farms standing in the rich meadow-land. Isombridge and Long Waste are quaint names. Sugden is an attractive looking farm, with its group of buildings surrounded by trees. Large herds of cattle were grazing in the fields, or cooling themselves in the canal.

Soon we came to the aqueduct, 62 yards long, over the Tern. Here the canal runs through what might be described as a great iron trough, standing upon high iron supports, the towpath beside the water of the canal.

This aqueduct was designed by Telford and cast at Ketley, not far away, by Reynolds. Constructed in 1796, it was the first iron aqueduct ever made. Entirely of cast iron, except for the bolts, it is still in good working order. Longdon-upon-Tern, a small village near the canal, has a brick church built in 1733.

Another mile brought us to Sleaford, where the bridge is inscribed "Long Lane. No. 16". So we had passed under 21 bridges, large and small, during the day's walk. Leaving the towpath, we reached the road near the Buck's Head, a long, attractive looking inn, with a magnificent carved buck's head, with great antlers, as a sign over the entrance.

This is the stopping place for a not very-frequent 'bus, direct to Shrewsbury, via Crudginton, Great Bolas and High Erccall (Services Nos. 922 and 923). In the opposite direction a 'bus runs more often to Wellington, where you must change. The distance of this walk is between eight and nine miles, including the piece of road at the beginning. It could, however, be divided into two walks by utilising the Green 'bus, which runs between Shrewsbury and Rodington, and in the reverse direction, on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

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Membership Renewals

As the autumn approaches, so does the start of our membership year which begins in October. We would like to say a big thank-you to all of you who responded to our appeal last year to try to keep down the administrative costs of SNCT membership renewals. It would be great if you could help out again this year by keeping the following in mind:

- Make sure that the membership team have your current email address so that we can keep in touch with you by email rather than having to use the increasingly expensive postal service.
- If we haven't contacted you by the end of September it would really help if you could send a quick email to membership@sncanal.org.uk to check we have the correct address.
- If you don't have an email address then consider sending in your fees by early September to avoid us writing to you by post later in the month.
- Taking out a standing order is an excellent way to save the Trust money as well as saving yourself the time and trouble of a manual renewal. Our thanks to all of you who have already done this - your renewal will take place automatically and we always send you a confirmatory email each time a renewal fee is received into the Trust's bank account.
- Please think about taking S&N News in electronic form as the printing and postage costs of the paper version are now well over £3.00 per year for each recipient. Just drop a brief email to

membership@sncanal.org.uk and this can be easily arranged.

- We know how busy life can be but if members could respond to the initial request for membership payment it avoids the cost of subsequent reminders.

Anything you can do to help us in this way means that the money can be made available for future restoration costs rather than our administration.

A standing order form is available to copy or cut out on page 16

*Many thanks,
Dee Nelson, Membership Secretary*

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Existing Members Standing Order

Please complete the form and send it to:

The Membership Secretary,
Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust,
Brookfield, Wroxeter, Shrewsbury, SY5 6PH

Name of your bank: *(block capitals)*

Full address of your bank:

Postcode:

Please pay NatWest Bank plc.
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Newport Canals Trust**

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Account Number: **53710002**

The sum of £.....

on and on the same
date each year until further notice.

Please could you use your name *(and
membership number if known)* as a
reference.

.....
This notice **does/does not** replace any
other Standing Order in favour of The
Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust.

Signed:

Date:

Name: _____

Home phone number: _____

Your account name: _____

Your account number: _____

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MSOF 7/13



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3/4

stamps

In view of the high costs
involved in mailing
stamps to us, could we
suggest that you bring
them to Trust functions
or pass them to a
Trustee

Thank you Johnny!

Many thanks to *John Taylor* who, though not
a member, has sent us thousands of stamps
via member *Mark Stevens*. This all goes
towards restoring our canals.



Work party updates

NEWPORT

Work has continued removing tree roots and keeping the vegetation under control in the Meretown lock area. We have had a lot of local praise for the work we have done around the canal in Newport.

After a recent presentation that we made to Newport Town Council they again thanked us for our work and they also made a donation of £350 for us to buy tools. Many thanks in particular, to *Lee Jackman* for this - we now have new wheelbarrows, spades, loppers and a lot more.



A Newport Work Party with tools at the ready

WAPPENSHALL



This was the work party that provided some "tlc" to the *Price Fallows* Jusfashow exhibition boat. Unfortunately whilst the boat was in outdoor storage rainwater managed to get inside - in fact we estimate that there was 1½ tons of water had managed to get in, which considerably added to the towing weight! With *Price Fallows* agreement, we have now drilled some holes in the bottom of the hull

to drain it out.

Some of the interior woodwork got very wet and rotten whilst the rest has been removed and is drying out. In due course *Fred Pritchard* will be re-constructing the interior for us. *Price Fallows* have also now donated twenty seven cans of paint to us for the twenty seven colours of paint on the boat!

SHREWSBURY

We are keeping up our monthly work parties and have now completed work on the St. Michaels Gate footpath where the line of the original footpath has been reinstated.

We are continuing to clear trees and undergrowth from the old canal bed behind

Sundorne and have received many complimentary comments on how much better the paths look and what a pleasure they are to walk.

An Abandoned Canal *a view of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals*

a DVD by **Richard Vobes.**

available to members only at Trust functions or by post from:

John Stevens, 11 Roe Deer Green, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7JQ

£5.00 plus £2.00 post and packing

make cheques payable to **Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust**

Support the Trust when you buy from CJ Wildlife

CJ Wildlife are based in Upton Magna near Shrewsbury and are Europe's largest wildlife garden specialists. They offer next day delivery on a wide selection of high quality products to help you care for your garden birds and other wildlife, as well as stocking a range of unique gift ideas for friends and family.

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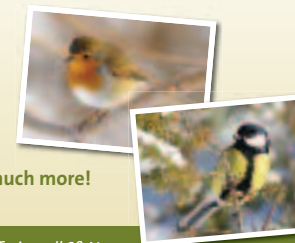
You can either click on the link on the SNCT website or, alternatively, order directly on the CJ Wildlife website quoting code C1631 during checkout Click on the link on the Trust's website 'Fundraising' page to place your order and help the Trust's fundraising, and your own pocket!

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Childhood memories of riding on canal lift

Report by Tony Neal The trust would like to thank "The Shropshire Star" www.shropshirestar.com for allowing us to reproduce this article

It is many years since the old canal which wound its lazy way through the village of Withington was filled in, but it still has the power to evoke fond memories, as we have learned after publishing this old postcard in 'Pictures From The Past'.

It came from Peter Smith of Dosthill, who was trying to trace the location. The case was quickly solved by Shropshire Star readers, with the added bonus that it seems this particular view, from a postcard franked in 1908, is rare and historic.

Mrs Margaret Monether, nee Nicklin, of Withington, said: "It's St. John the Baptist Church, Withington. The farm opposite, Church Farm, has been farmed by my family for probably 170 to 180 years and it's still farmed by my nephews, Richard and Peter Nicklin. My brother was farming until he died last year.

The actual farm house was a very old Elizabethan farm house. It's been divided into three farm worker's cottages and was sold a few years ago to a couple who have renovated it.

"The Nicklin family have never lived in the farm house as such. When my father and grandfather were alive they lived at the Rea Farm at Upton Magna. Church Farm was bought by my family. They had the two farms together.

"That's the old canal there and at the

front of the picture, which you can't see, is the coal wharf where the coal barges came to. You can see the old pull-up bridge.

I can remember, and I'm laughing now - I'm 77 by the way - that we were very naughty. We used to pull it up and ride down on it. It was a very nice toy. The old bridge had to be pulled up to let the barges underneath.

"My father died in 1942 when we were very little. My mother continued until the end of the war farming the two farms, and then moved to the Gate House in Withington. That's still in the family.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw the picture. The first thing I thought about was that I lost my father when I was six. I looked at it and thought 'Golly, my father could have put that stack up.'

Denis Jones, 75, of Harlescott Grange, Shrewsbury, who used to live in Withington, said: "I pulled that bridge down a few times when I was a nipper. My mother used to clean the church on a Friday. She used to clean the vicarage as well. The old bridge went over to a farm. My dad worked on that farm.

For a barge to go under, the bridge had to be lifted up. You pulled a chain down. It was counterbalanced and came down quite easily, and the barge went underneath it.



Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust is a Registered Charity, no. 1088706 and a Registered Company, limited by guarantee, no. 4075920.

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Showing off!



Eleventh and twelfth May was the English Heritage National Open weekend at **The Flaxmill** Ditherington, Shrewsbury and the Trust stand was present, manned by various member volunteers. The weather was cool and showery, which might have prompted a lot of people to have a day out where they were not likely to get wet. Well over 2,000 people visited the site over the weekend and our stand was very busy indeed. Over 750 leaflets were taken away by visitors and several new members joined.

The Trust stand was at the **Shropshire County Show** on Saturday 25th May in glorious sunshine (once *Derek Hillaby* had moved it out of the Berwick Suite away from the gents loos!).

Some new members were signed up and a lot of interest was shown in the new roller banner map of the Shrewsbury end of the canal. Also, Police & Crime Commissioner, *Bill Longmore* asked if the Trust was able to employ prisoners from *Stoke Heath*. We were happy to tell him that these work parties have

been ongoing for a couple of years now. On a rather windy and cool Bank Holiday Monday 27th May, the **Lion's Fun Day** was staged in the Quarry, Shrewsbury. Apart from being sited right next to the public address system, which played very loud music between announcements all day, the Trust stand was a popular attraction.



Amongst many visitors was the new mayor of Shrewsbury, *Jon Tandy*, (photo above) who showed great interest in the canal's restoration. He has a vision to get the final section of the canal into Shrewsbury opened from the *Flaxmill*, down through *St Michael's Gate*, through *Morris Lubricants* and on past the *Dana* to a new basin in front of the *Butter Market*, making it a destination similar to *Birmingham's NIA* area and *Gas Street Basin*. He wants to arrange a meeting with *Bernie Jones* and the Trust to progress this.

'Jusfashow' out at Newport Carnival



On a lovely "flaming June" day on 8 June, we had the first outing for the *Jusfashow* display boat at the **Newport Carnival**. This fantastic piece of kit has been loaned to the Trust by *Andy Price*, the managing director of *Price Fallows*, a long standing SNCT corporate member. *John Heather*, Norbury CIC Director and Trust member, kindly offered to tow it for us with his trusty Land Rover Discovery and his wife *Monica* did a great job in doing just that. She towed it from Wappenshall, then in the parade and then back to Wappenshall again. What was really surprising though, was that we won first prize in our category plus the *The Earl of Bradford Trophy* presented by *Mayor Tony Forrester*. Fantastic!

We had another glorious sunny day for the **Shrewsbury River Festival** contrasting with the washout of last year. We took the *Price Fallows* boat to exhibit the SNCT which went down well attracting many people to our stand.

The display boat is proving to be a great attraction at events, especially with children, whilst their parents can study the new map showing our outline plans for Shrewsbury (subject to Council approval). Many parents who watched their children climb all over it made a donation whilst we gave them an ear bashing! The collection boat raised over £75 from people who visited our display.



Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped make these events a success