

58 | Fifty Eight

The Magazine of The Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society

'Promoting the upkeep of the canals to ensure that the heritage is looked after for all to enjoy'



**Our Society teamed up with the Lapal Canal Trust
at The Selly Oak Festival 2022 (see page 13)**



Monthly Meetings & Walks

We have our second and final summer walk coming up soon.

Tuesday 2nd August. A Walk from Briar Mill to Salwarpe Mill.

A trip with a walk along the centre section of the Droitwich Barge Canal. One length of this canal not recently covered by our society. On the face of things quite un-extraordinary. Using a little local knowledge and research then some history will be revealed.

Meet at Droitwich Sports Centre and swimming pool. Briar Mill. WR9 0RZ at 7.15PM.

Length of walk approximately 2 miles.

Future Meetings: Full details will be communicated to members via email, our website and Facebook.

Please ensure that our Membership Secretary has your current details.

AGM 2022

Notice is hereby given that the Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on the evening of September 6th 2022 in the meeting room near the Weighbridge in Alvechurch.

The society is always keen to welcome new people to the committee which usually meets once a month. If anyone is interested in this volunteering opportunity, or just wants to find out, please get in touch. All of the contact details are on page 4 of this edition. The committee has been running this past year without a secretary so is particularly keen to rectify this.

The agenda and minutes of the last AGM, September 2021, will be made available in due course on social media. The society's constitution is available on the web site for easy access.

Please put the date in your diaries and try to attend this event which not only elects new officers and committee but also reports on the past year's activities. It also offers an opportunity to influence what the society does in the following year. Please note that while non-members are welcome to attend, only fully paid up members will be able to vote and this time the subscription rates are being proposed for amendment.

There is usually another short presentation after the main AGM's business.

The Magazine of the Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society

Issue 563 Aug/Sep 2022

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We have a vibrant **Facebook** page, why not pay a visit and 'like' us?

www.facebook.com/wbdcs.org.uk

We are also on **Twitter** please follow us @wbdcs58.

View videos on our [YouTube channel](#)

Opinions expressed in Fifty Eight are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Society, but are published as matters of interest.

Copy date for the next issue: September 14th 2022.

Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society

**'Promoting the upkeep of the canals to ensure
the heritage is looked after for all to enjoy'**

(Registered Charity No 500159)

PRESIDENT: Sandra Radmore

VICE PRESIDENT: Sir Peter Luff

CHAIR

David Wheeler

01527 833359

chairman@wbdc.org.uk

VICE CHAIR

Margaret Rowley

vicechair@wbdc.org.uk

SECRETARY

(Vacant)

secretary@wbdc.org.uk

TREASURER

Trevor Hyde

01527 880158 or 07770 971146

treasurer@wbdc.org.uk

Committee

Denis Pike:	programme@wbdc.org.uk	07870 939121
John Hemingway:	58@wbdc.org.uk	0121 445 2223
Lynne Laniosh:	shop@wbdc.org.uk	07947 712794
Malcolm Bates:		0121 421 1368
Tony Brannon	contact@wbdc.org.uk	07763 468893
Bill Lambert	williamlambert729@yahoo.com	07815 986012
Wendy Albutt	bookingcecilia@yahoo.com	07769 551462
Neil Franklin	neilwbdcsvolunteer@gmail.com	07857 294196

The '58' Team

Editor:	John Hemingway	58@wbdc.org.uk	0121 445 2223
Design:	Tony Brannon	fiftyeight@talktalk.net	07763 468893
Advertising:	Joe Morley	morleyj827@gmail.com	07870 303413

Contacts

Membership Secretary:	Joe Morley	membership@wbdc.org.uk	01299 828077
Programme Secretary:	Denis Pike	programme@wbdc.org.uk	07870 939121
Volunteer Co-ordinator:	Neil Franklin	volunteers@wbdc.org.uk	07857 294196
Cecilia Co-ordinator:	David Wheeler	cecilia@wbdc.org.uk	01527 833359
Cecilia Bookings:	Wendy Albutt	bookingcecilia@yahoo.com	
Website:	Brett Laniosh	webmaster@wbdc.org.uk	01527 880118
Media, Print & Website:	Tony Brannon	contact@wbdc.org.uk	07763 468893
Shop Co-ordinator:	Lynne Laniosh	shop@wbdc.org.uk	07947 712794
Historian:	Ian Hunter	historian@wbdc.org.uk	



Chair's Notes

'Cecilia' is the flagship of the Worcester Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society. She raises the profile of the Canal Society, she encourages new volunteers to join the Canal Society and she brings new visitors to the inland waterways, which is why we have not hesitated to have 'Cecilia' repainted spending another £10,000 in doing so. That will bring the figure of expenditure over the past two years to just under £30,000!!! Not bad for a small Canal Society like ours.

I reported that the St. Richard's Boat Festival 2022 had been a successful event, well just how successful is now beginning to show because I have received emails from traders who enjoyed the event so much they are already asking for the entry forms for 2023.

I would like to pay my heartfelt thanks to Joe Morley who is bowing out from the Committee this year. Joe, along with his wife Ann, have been members of the Society for longer than I can remember. They quickly became members of the Committee taking responsibility for the Shop, '58' and then Ann became Membership Secretary. As Ann became ill and we eventually lost her Joe took over. The Morleys are stalwarts of the Canal Society and the efforts they have given to the Society should never be forgotten. Joe has just recovered from pneumonia and I wish him a long and lasting retirement from Society work.

David Wheeler



Editor's Notes

Hello Readers

I trust you've all been enjoying the particularly hot weather we have been experiencing in July? Trouble is we still need water to keep plants growing and we particularly need it to keep our canals going. As this editorial is written, there are already restrictions in place on some parts of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal where water supply problems have occurred on previous occasions.

Canal and River Trust usually send boat owners monthly information known as 'Canal Boaters Update'. A recent bulletin makes particular mention of water safety and retention issues which can be problematic during hot spells, ironically when boat movements are at their highest:

"The hot, dry summers have a significant impact on the charity's water resources, with the very low rainfall so far this year sadly resulting in a number of restrictions and closures. The Trust is asking boaters, with the help of volunteer lock keepers, to be even more careful than usual to conserve water."

Boaters can help by sharing locks where possible and making sure paddles are fully closed after use.

The Trust's swing bridges and other moveable structures are vulnerable in a heatwave, with extreme heat causing expansion of the materials which at worst will cause them to become stuck. The Trust is asking boaters to be careful when using them and to report any problems via the 'Contact Us' page of the website.

Summer is one of the most popular times for people to go boating, and millions more come to visit Britain's canals and rivers. While it may be tempting to get in the water, shallow water and obstructions beneath the surface can cause injury if people jump in. Deeper water around docks and locks will be very cold, even in the summer, which could cause cold water shock. The Trust is urging everyone to stay out of the water and is reminding boaters to be alert to any people who may not be following this advice and who may be in the water and harder to spot when manoeuvring a boat."

The latter paragraph gives a particularly stark reminder of the dangers with some fatalities already reported in the National media around the Salford Quays area on the Manchester Ship Canal.

The issue of water conservation is an ever present which makes it even more concerning when C&RT have a notice on Tardebigge Top Lock, one of the deepest narrow locks in the country, requiring boaters to empty the lock after every upward passage. No reason is given for this but it does waste a large lock of water unless another boat is waiting to descend. This results in flooding lower down the flight with water cascading over lock gates and on some occasions the towpath. Perhaps C&RT could explain this to '58' as we have no doubt it is a complete waste and outwith the statement above regarding conservation.



In past editions of '58' we have wondered how it appears that C&RT do not communicate with such as WB&DCS on various issues of mutual interest on and around our waterways. We are still unsure why so many notice boards on the W&B have been removed and not replaced, meaning

that there are none at all between Tardebigge and Birmingham, as well as those removed lower the canal. We are similarly unaware of the actual circumstances surrounding the loss of the orchard moorings at Alvechurch, although there are several rumours that C&RT are interested in the site. '58' is also unaware as to the reason behind the moorings on the long pound below Tardebigge top lock being altered from 14 days to just 2. Tardebigge is a very popular place for boaters to stay a few days and explore this fascinating area but there is nowhere to tie up to between the tunnel and top lock which makes the ones below even more important as mooring rings are in situ.



We are aware that our very active volunteers are now meeting with C&RT so let's hope that these issues can be discussed and answers forthcoming; we have, after all, the same interests!

During the last edition we alluded to some towpath improvements close to Lane House Aqueduct near Alvechurch with more on this now completed task later. The society has also held its monthly gatherings including a 'talk and walk' around the Selly Oak area which was preceded by the annual Selly Oak Park Festival. Again further details of these further on. We will also feature a report of a past long trip on 'Cecilia' as well as Lapal Canal Restoration news plus our usual volunteering news and Mary's Nature Notes.

The articles sent in for publication this month have as usual all come from volunteers and largely members of the society. '58' is extremely grateful for these contributions and seeing as we are now in the height of Summer, we hope that others will be able to send in any pictures taken on or around our wonderful waterways. Hope to see you on our August 2nd walk, which is in Droitwich this time, and don't forget the society's Annual General meeting on September 6th which is advertised in this edition.

Stay safe especially near locks and enjoy the read.

John Hemingway

Fifty Eight 7

Heritage Open Days 2022

Our society will be taking part in the National Trust's Heritage Open Days (HoDs) again for 2022.

As I am sure you know we at the WB&DCS like to do something a little different from time to time and some of you may remember our efforts at last year's Heritage Open Days.

For those of you new to this event it took place around the Tardebigge New Wharf area and consisted of our member volunteers along with some volunteers from C&RT showing members of the public around the top lock and wharf area giving a guided view of how the area would have looked when in full industrial swing. This year will focus around the top lock section of the Tardebigge canal flight and see the site of our local 'Astounding Invention' – the perpendicular boat lift.

Volunteer guides will provide a snapshot of canal building endeavours and explain the aims of water management, from the summit of the longest narrow lock flight in Britain, including the engineering feat of the Experimental Perpendicular boat lift which was a mechanical marvel of its day.

The story of the Wharf and the surrounding landscape is placed into context visiting the current wharf and sites of past quays, quarries, rail tracks, lime kilns and the site of the experimental lift itself which today is replaced with one of the deepest narrow locks in the country.

The event days themselves are part of a national fortnight of heritage events coordinated by the National Trust and in our case supported by C&RT.

This year the event will coincide with the Tardebigge show on the Saturday.

We are inviting members to take part as guides or helpers on the day. As previously we support volunteers in visiting the area and walking around the site to familiarize you and provide you with some local information and anecdote that can be used for you to take a small group on a short walk and show them the highlights of the area.

There is no pressure to memorize a script, most people from last year said they remember what they find interesting and can show others these sights referring to a 'crib sheet' if there are other things they wish to impart.

The event dates are the weekend of Sept 10th and 11th 2022.

We aim to be running tours hourly on both days at 10.00, 11.30, 13.00 and 14.30.

Our event submission has been accepted and is on the Heritage Open Day website, just type in 'Tardebigge' in the events search box or use this direct link: <https://bit.ly/3z3MqCu>

Last year's event was well supported and all had a good and interesting time.

This year we will also need to staff the publicity gazebo up at the Tardebigge show and to have a team on 'Cecilia' to offer information and provide refreshments for walkers and guides.

We are also planning to offer short boat trips on 'Cecilia' through the Tardebigge tunnel and return after winding at the Old Wharf.

If you are interested and want to talk about the project or take the opportunity to walk around the site, or want any more information, please phone Al Gibbs on 07398709048 or contact Volunteer coordinator Neil Franklin (email address on page 4 of 58).



Al Gibbs

Membership Matters

New Member Welcome

'58' is pleased to offer a warm welcome into membership of the society to Mark Saunders from Bromsgrove.

We hope to see Mark at our next society events including the August walk in Doitwich.

Notice to all members:

Your committee recently voted to increase the annual membership fee as per below:

Individuals - £15

Couples - £20

Corporate - £30

This committee decision will be presented to the society's Annual General Meeting on September 6th for further discussion and hopefully approval. Members may be interested to know that the subscriptions have remained at their current level for more than 10 years.

Shop Report



Our stall attended two events during June. One new venue, The Primrose Hospice in Bromsgrove, and an old favourite, Selly Oak Festival (*see page 13*). The weather presented a few challenges on both days, but despite this we were able to raise some funds for the Society and, at Selly Oak, give a large number of children the opportunity to make their own badges, which were worn with pride for the rest of the day. Having a stall next to that of the Lapal Canal Trust at Selly Oak Festival also gave us the chance to work alongside our Lapal Canal Trust friends and colleagues.

The next two bookings for our shop are:

27th & 28th August, Bratch Festival and Boat Rally, WV5 8DH.

10th & 11th September, Black Country Boating Festival, Windmill End, Netherton.

Please get in touch if you would like to help out with any of these activities.

If you still have any second hand jigsaws that you can donate, you can either bring them along to any members' meeting, or drop them off at our stall at any event. If you have a large quantity, let me know and I will try to arrange for them to be collected.

Lynne Laniosh
shop@wbdcs.org.uk



‘Nature Notes’ Mary Green

I don't know why the CRT hadn't done any cutting of the flowering plants along the canal here before now this year, but I was pleased. I've never seen such variety of plants, a true corridor of biodiversity. A friend found and showed me an unusual orchid growing by the towpath – a pyramidal orchid, a kind I haven't seen round here – which must have been waiting there for years to come up. Two days later they mowed, but I had told them, and I think we saved it!

Another plant I discovered in two places was pignut. One patch was on the aquatic fringe, the other by a wood. Pignut grows in old undisturbed turf, so it's unusual by the canal. By the “dead-arm wood” it's understandable: it grows in that wood formed on a remnant of old meadow. The others near the aqueduct are near very old trees, possibly once woodland edge. Pignut looks like a little cow parsley with delicate feathery leaves. Underground it has an edible tuberous “nut”. Many animals including badgers dig them up for food – and people used to. It's thought to be the origin of the song “Here we go gathering nuts in May.”

Pignut is the food plant for a moth called the chimney sweeper, which as you might expect is sooty black. I've seen some this year.

Unfortunately, the stretch on the aquatic fringe is where CRT have been strengthening the bank and have dug up a lot of the turf, so we'll have to see how well it survives. It's a shame they don't know what they've got. Where they have been strengthening banks elsewhere round here, they infill with soil from elsewhere and re-plant or re-seed. I hope they get this right.

I also found ragged robin growing by the



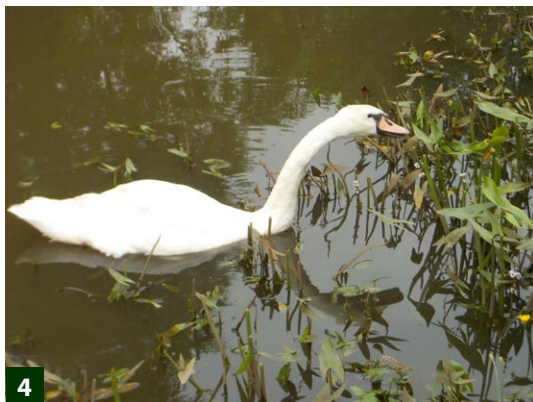
canalside, a very pretty plant of wet meadows. As it's near houses it may have come from a garden, but it's a lovely native plant and has survived so far.

Mostly it's the common plants that have done so well and by the time you read this if they still haven't cut it drastically, there are meadowsweet, willowherb, marsh woundwort and purple loosestrife in full flower.

It isn't just humans who remove vegetation. Last year there was a beautiful patch of a plant called arrowhead growing and flowering in the water near here. I watched a swan demolish it! Usually most creatures (like the amazing elephant hawk moth caterpillars on the willowherb) don't take enough food to alter the balance.

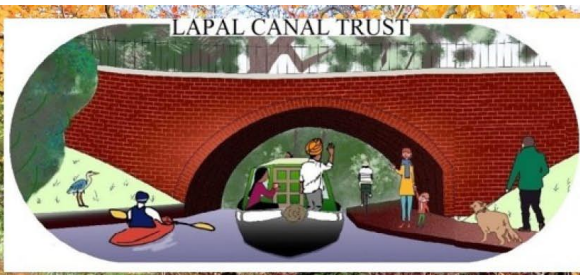
The waterbirds have done well this year. The Canada goslings are grown up, one goose nearby raising ten! I was worried when I found the swan nest empty but there they were on the reservoir and the seven cygnets had survived. I have seen moorhen chicks and grebe chicks as well as plenty of mallard ducklings. I found the reed buntings again this year near Bittell and I think I heard reed warblers too. There have been plenty of swallows and martins by Bittell, which like to feed near water and need wet mud for their nests. They also need cracks and crannies in old buildings to nest, and there were lots around Bittell Farm.

It's been interesting watching the natural succession of plants when they are left alone. When the cow parsley dies down another similar plant called chervil comes out beautifully by the towpath. Then later comes hedge parsley, less common but delicate and slightly pink. Each one has its own place and time. Natural diversity is a far cry from "planting wildflowers."



1. PYRAMIDAL ORCHID
2. RAGGED ROBIN

3. CANADA GOOSE WITH GOSLINGS
4. SWAN EATING ARROWHEAD
5. REED BUNTING



The new winding hole at Selly Oak on the W&B, opposite what will be the entrance to restored Dudley No.2 Canal, continues to take shape. The area is currently being referred to as 'Whitehouse Wharf' after the family that ran a business there for many years before the last firm Goodman's. Where the old canal junction used to be, and the surrounding area, had previously been known as Selly Port.

'58' understands that the new winding hole development is due for completion very soon and the excavated section will be re-watered. The on-going task for the Trust is fund raising, particularly for the lowering of the gas main and fibre way under the opposite towpath, so that a new swing bridge can be fitted and a connection to the W&B can follow.





Selly Oak Festival 11am-3pm Saturday 25th June

The last Saturday in June featured, among several other local events, the long awaited return of the popular Selly Oak Festival. This took place in Selly Oak Park and the crowds certainly turned out despite spasmodic downpours of rain.

The WB&DCS stall was present alongside our friends from the Lapal Canal Trust. Lynne's well presented items for sale were accompanied by the ever popular badge making which certainly attracts the families. Lapal Canal Trust not only focussed on promoting the restoration, but also had some items of 'bric a brac' for sale, which is something we don't see as much of these days for some reason.

The event was very successful with so many different stalls as well as demonstrations from local schools – one of which continued with their presentation despite a sudden cloudburst.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers including those transporting goods, setting up the gazebos and helping with the badge-making.



Sponsored Canal Walk (2003)

Sponsored Canal Walk Involving 'Cecilia'

Just by chance some time ago while working on 'Cecilia' by the towpath in Alvechurch, some of the volunteers were approached by a Colin Thomas and his wife (sorry no forename offered), who recognised the boat from a number of years ago. Apparently their son Michael was involved in an organised sponsored canal walk to London in 2003, using 'Cecilia' as a support boat commencing from the W&B in Birmingham. Some pictures of them setting off were also kindly sent to us (*below*) which show the then MP for Selly Oak, Lynne Jones, as well as our WB&DCS Chair David both offering their support to the venture.

Contact was subsequently made with Michael who kindly agreed that we could publish the item in '58'.



Thanks for getting in touch - glad to hear that people are still passionate about the boat and the canal!

In theory I'd be happy to share an anecdote but to be honest I can't really remember much that is worthy of printing.

One thing that sticks out is that we only got one sponsor for the trip, "Towsure" are a Halesowen based camping/leisure store (still there: <https://www.towsure.com/towsure-halesowen-store>). They donated a little bit of money which was much more than any other business did, and so we made a slightly ragged banner for the boat that proudly proclaimed their involvement - I'm not sure that they got the best advertising out of that but we certainly told everyone from Birmingham to London about it!

The other strong memory was that near the beginning of the trip we had to rush back to Birmingham to attend some relatively insignificant school event, but we didn't have enough seats in the car so we made someone ride in the boot. I won't disclose the name of the parent who oversaw that for legal reasons.

In any case, we have subsequently taken more than one holiday on the canals on Great Britain and hope to introduce our daughter to the same pleasures when she's old enough; they will always have a special place in my heart.

*Kind Regards,
Mike Thomas*

Many thanks to the Thomas family for this article which perhaps some readers may recall from times past. Please let's know your memories of this occasion plus any pictures that are available.

Society Meetings and Activities

June Meeting

The society meeting for the month of June was an illustrated talk from a previous speaker, Paul Barnett from Gloucestershire, although he originally hails from the North East. Paul gave a very detailed and corroborative presentation about the Sharpness area and how some of the older vessels were treated and where they ended up. Paul's knowledge of this fascinating topic and attention to detail was exemplary and really appreciated by the audience.



July Walk

During the month of July, the society held the first of its walks which took place at Selly Oak on a warm evening. The group was met by Hugh Humphreys from the Lapal Canal Trust who showed the progress on the new winding hole before leading the walkers along the new canal route and beyond into Selly Oak Park. Hugh explained that the Waterway Recovery Group would be working around the old canal bridge in the park during August, possibly the oldest example on the whole of the BCN, in order to provide a ramp for disabled people or those using prams. The new towpath would then cross over this very well used bridge on to the other side next to the park.

Denis led the walkers further on to show the work needing to be done to the canal bed and towpath in order to get past the park. Those walkers who had not seen this before were absolutely fascinated with the restoration project and what it will undoubtedly bring to Selly Oak. Many thanks were given to Denis for organising and to Hugh for leading the way in the earlier stages. *Photos below courtesy of Hugh Humphreys.*



The Lapal Canal Trust's annual 'Walk The Line' walk is scheduled for Saturday September 17th. More details will be posted on our own website, Facebook & Twitter nearer the date.

Development

Development in the Northern reaches of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal

Many canal users may well have noticed that there is so often development taking place on or near our waterways. Our canals are no exception and fortunately the society, being a consultee on any proposals, can often influence decisions due to be made in any future projects although some may fall outside of this remit.



More novel scenes from canal side properties on what used to be the Cadbury's Wharf.



There is currently a large project taking place over both the railway and canal by the Birmingham University Station. Eventually pedestrians should be able to cross both canal and railway from above thus connecting both sides of the campus.



If any readers spot any other interesting scenes on our canals please send them in for everyone to enjoy.



Staffs & Worcestershire Canal



The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Celebrates its 250th Birthday

This year is a significant anniversary for the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, which was opened in 1772, 250 years ago.

In order to celebrate the canal's historic milestone, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society is planning to hold a '250th Birthday Celebration Rally' over the August Bank Holiday weekend (August 27th – 28th.)

The rally is to be held below the unique Bratch Locks, which will give everyone the opportunity to visit and enjoy the beauty and heritage of our canal, and be a part of an historic period in our canal's history.

Boat Entry forms are available from <https://swcanalsociety.co.uk> or from the Society's Harbour Master Mr Steve Bingham, either by phone 07964 151552, or by email:- ste.bingham1954@gmail.com

The Entry Fee is £15, which will include a souvenir Rally Plaque celebrating this notable event in the history of our waterways.

Black Country Boating Festival 2022

The Black Country Boating Festival is due to go ahead on Saturday September 10th and Sunday September 11th.

We are not sure if it will also be open on the Friday evening yet.

Currently there does not appear to be a specific website.

The Black Country Boating Festival is an annual boating and community festival held on the Dudley No. 2 Canal at the Bumblehole Local Nature Reserve.

The festival is usually open Friday evening 6pm to 10pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm.

Boats - Trade and Craft Stalls - Fun Fair - Real Ale Bar - Boat Trips - Classic vehicles - Live Music - Dog show And Lots More.

We have uploaded a full set of booking forms, for anyone interested in trading/staying, on our website: www.wbdcs.org.uk

You don't need forms to attend. This is a free event.



Our society shop will be in attendance (more information on page 9).

Cecilia Trips

Age UK

A massive thank you to Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society who very kindly organised a day trip yesterday on board their boat the Cecilia for representatives from our Amphlett Hall Computer Club and Bromsgrove Men in Sheds! To quote one of those on board 'The crew were brilliant and very informative. Definitely a super day out!'

Thank you to everybody involved for the opportunity and for a really brilliant day!



Prostate Cancer Support

We were pleased to welcome the Kidderminster & Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group on board Cecilia today - funded by our collaboration with Lapal Trust lottery grant. They all commented on what a lovely day they'd had and they'd love to come out with us again.

** if anyone would like to contact them for support or advice please contact Wendy for details by emailing: bookingcecilia@yahoo.com.



Droitwich Barge Canal Medallions

On page 13 of the last edition of '58' the special publication about the Droitwich Barge Canal's 250th Anniversary was shown. These are still available to members if anyone could just let us know please.

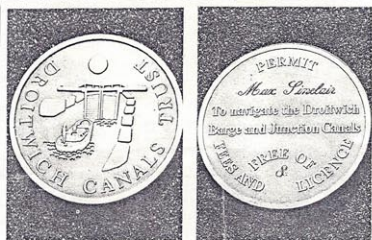
On pages 6 and 7 of the actual special publication, mention is made of some of the fund raising activities that took place in order to move the restoration forward. In particular, the special one off medallions that were produced and initially sold for £50 and in 1980 for £75. The publication refers specifically to the medallion belonging to Rene Dowler who was a very long standing and active canal society member. When Rene sadly passed away, her medallion, which had already been bequeathed to society member Emila Milne, subsequently became Emila's property.

Emila has very kindly allowed '58' to borrow the said artefact and all of the original paperwork associated with it.

Pictures of both sides of the medallion in its original box and scans of some pertinent text.

Perhaps the society could liaise with others at some future point to find out who actually possesses these individual medallions? Any information from readers would be welcome please.

he Waterways World



Work proceeds apace on the Droitwich Canal - recent restoration progress was reviewed in our October issue. Dredging on the summit pound is almost complete; temporary causeways across the canal on the outskirts of Droitwich have been removed, and steel components for the construction of a new swingbridge near Salwarpe have been delivered. The summit should be in water by the end of the year, and small boats, canoes and inflatable will be welcome to the canal. The Droitwich Canals Trust have minted some special tokens, holders of which will be able to navigate the fully restored canal (1982 is the date set for full navigation) free for life. Purchase of a medallion will bring much needed funds to the Trust. They are available, price £50 from Dave Turner, Lock Cottage, Ludlow, Shropshire, Worcestershire - but buy now, the price will rise to £75 from the beginning of next year.

DECEMBER 1979

DCT NAVIGATION MEDALLION (pictured on the cover)

Many of our newer members may not know about these, and, I suspect, a lot of our older members may have forgotten them.

The Navigation Medallions, a once only limited edition of 100, were struck a while ago. Each medallion is individually numbered (1-100) and is engraved with the holder's name.

The possession of one of these valuable bronze medallions gives the holder a lifetime right to navigate the Droitwich and Droitwich Junction Canals free of licence or navigation fee - a chance obviously not to be missed.

There are still a number of medallions available and the minimum price per medallion is £50. Application forms are available at the Lock Cottage or by post from the Secretary, Nick Grazebrook.

8.

WYCH CANAL No. 4. JULY/AUGUST 1978

NAVIGATION MEDALLIONS - Inflation has finally hit the DCT! The minimum purchase price of the Navigation Medallions will be £75 from 1st January 1980. Those wishing to beat the price increase can obtain forms from the Lock Cottage, or from R. M. Sinclair, "The Butty", Frenchlands Lane, Lower Broadheath, Worcester.



Bromsgrove 31624



Lokrum
Copyholt Lane
Stoke Pound
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B66 3AY

Please reply to :-

20, Perry Mill Road,
Peapleton,
Worce.

Miss Dowler.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in enclosing your navigation Medallion which permits navigation of the Droitwich Canals as specified in the Conditions, a copy of which are attached. The Trust Council have been asked if they would be prepared to relax the rules regarding the exclusive use of the Medallion by the original holder in cases of extreme unforeseen circumstances. At the suggestion of medallion holders the Council of the Trust are therefore proposing to permit at the Council's discretion the transfer of ownership of each medallion. This would only be permitted in exceptional circumstances on application to the Council and the current policy on such transfers is and will be obtainable from the Trust Secretary. Would you please return the attached slip confirming receipt of your Medallion.

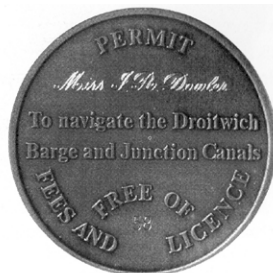
May I take this opportunity of once again thanking you for your support of the Trust.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Osborne

B.B. Osborne
Director.

PURCHASED 4/10/76



Towpath Improvements

In the last edition of '58' progress on the towpath improvements near the Lane House Aqueduct in Alvechurch were reported on. '58' is pleased to report that the work is now completed and hopefully the aquatic fringe will start to develop throughout this Summer. Very well done to C&RT and the contractors involved.



Volunteers Report

Your volunteers have been busy again over the last two months.

June started with eleven of us taking a First Aid course at Droitwich. We all passed and got a recognised certificate to put on the mantelpiece. We can now ensure there is a First Aider on every trip to look after our passengers.

The two themes of this period have been training and the start of our day trips.

We have taken out a Prostate Cancer support group, Age UK Bromsgrove members, a Redditch Walking Group and HomeEd families. We also finally took out Brian Perrygrove and friends who won their trip through a CAMRA competition. Everyone enjoyed the trips and have promised to come again.

The other theme over the period was training three of our volunteers to be ready to take the NACB helming certificate. Al, Alan and Trevor have cast off, turned and moored 'Cecilia' so many times that they are now ready to take the test.

We have also been busy keeping Tardebigge spick and span. C&RT have started to rebuild the wall at the bottom of the garden and we are helping to keep the area accessible.

We have been talking to C&RT about our adoptions at Tardebigge and what we can do to help them. We look forward to working with Gemma and her team in the coming days and months. Our main contact at C&RT will be Dafydd Jones their new volunteer coordinator. We look forward to getting to know him and working with him in the future. Welcome to Tardebigge Daf!

The last thing to mention is the Heritage Open Day in September. There are more details in this Edition of '58' but I would urge anyone who can to come down to Tardebigge on 10th and 12th and give us a hand. I can guarantee you will enjoy the day and you never know you may learn a thing or two about the boat lift!

That's all for now, keep putting the sun screen on and wear a hat no matter how silly you look wearing it.

Neil Franklin

Volunteer Coordinator

Please Support Our Volunteering Work Parties

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our workdays at the Tardebigge site.

Volunteer Co-ordinator Neil Franklin has asked if I would kindly remind people of our next workdays, so here we go, the events you have all been waiting for!

We will meet at 09:30 as before and finish as people chose, which is usually around 15:30.

The remaining dates for the year are as follows: -

August 2022	Sat. 13th Sun. 14th	Tues 23rd Wed. 24th
September 2022	Sat. 10th Sun. 11th	Tues 20th Wed. 21st
October 2022	Sat. 8th Sun. 9th	Tues 25th Wed. 26th
November 2022	Sat. 12th Sun. 13th	Tues 22nd Wed. 23rd
December 2022	Sat. 10th Sun. 11th	

Please let me know if you can help us on any of these dates. To make these days work we do need three or four people to make the party up.

Bill Lambert

Society Member

Tel: 02476 726924 or Mobile: 07815 986012

Email: williamlambert729@yahoo.com

Mikron Theatre Company



The Mikron Theatre Company has commenced its 50th Anniversary tour after a two year break because of covid. They are due at the 'Weighbridge' in Alvechurch on August 26th at 7.30pm following a show at Lapworth Top Lock the day before. The group travel around the waterways on their narrowboat 'Tyseley' but also make use of road transport in order to access other venues not on the canals.

There is no need to book a place at the 'Weighbridge' but people are advised to get there early and to take your own chairs. A cash collection is usually asked for at the end of the play. The pub will be open to sell food and drink.

The production scheduled for Alvechurch is called 'Red Sky at Night'.

"Through the chronicles of history, people have gazed at up and marvelled at the mysteries of the weather.

Generations have tried to master the elements and understand the magic of the skies.

Hayley's sunny, beloved dad was the nation's favourite weatherman. He could make a typhoon sound like tickle. Hayley is now following in his footsteps, to join the ranks of the forecasting fraternity. Or at least, local shoestring teatime telly.

When the pressure drops and dark clouds gather, Hayley is melting faster than a lonely snowflake. She's seen the future's forecast, but will anyone listen?

Bring your anorak and your factor 50. Well, you never know."

Their other production, for those readers interested in seeing elsewhere, is called 'Raising Agents' which is about a fictional WI at Bunnington suffering from dwindling membership. A PR guru comes in with rebranding ideas which do not go down very well with a subsequent battle for perhaps the very soul of the WI itself. But above all the play is about friendships.

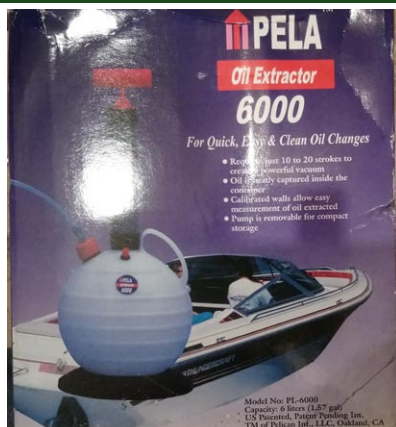
Further details can be found on www.mikron.org.uk

Items For Sale

Could anyone make use of a camping toilet in return for a donation to the Cecilia Fund?

It was bought as a spare for our boat but has never been used. Also a Pela 6 litre Oil Extractor.

Please call Ian Hunter on 01527 402360 or ihunter@blueyonder.co.uk



Canal & River Trust News

Canal and River Trust has recently sent out a reminder to boat owners regarding the identification requirements needed on each craft. '58' is pleased to endorse this request which is printed verbatim below:

Please help us by displaying your boat's index number, licence and name.

Most boats correctly display their index number licence and boat name, but recently we have started to see an increase in those that don't. It's important to display your boat's details so that in the event of an accident or problem with the boat, we can identify and contact the boater concerned. It also reduces the time spent by our boat licence rangers, who lose time when trying to identify non-displaying boats. If we can't identify your boat, we aren't able to accurately record sightings and this may impact on future licensing decisions, particularly if you don't have a home mooring.

Licence Support Officer checks boat licences in London. The British Waterways Act 1971 requires a boat's name and index to be displayed 'conspicuously' and the boat licence terms and conditions specify the details are displayed on both sides of the boats, easily visible. We are starting a new process to address non-displaying boats on the waterway, which could result in enforcement action, so please make sure you're displaying your boat details correctly and speak to fellow boaters that might not be.

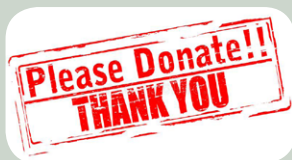
If you need a replacement index number or plastic Licence Holder, you should visit our online shop or contact our customer services team.

Also on the C&RT web site is an address from Chief executive Richard Parry who talks about volunteers, funding and the trust's future plans. Richard explains where the trust is in relation to making sure that the waterways are accessible to all users while recognising the key role played by boaters. The short presentation is also available on YouTube and well worth listening to.

Donations

We have introduced new and easier ways of making donations to the society.

QR Code: We have the facility to make donations direct to the society. You can simply scan the QR code on our flyers and collection tins or visit <https://bit.ly/3pcfp1C>



JustGiving
We have also set up a 'JustGiving' page.
Simply go to the JustGiving website:
<https://www.justgiving.com/wbdcs>

Gardeners Arms 01905772936



Your Local Community Canal Pub

Droitwich Canal Swing Bridge 19

Gardeners - Community Pub Restaurant for your pleasure

Bar Beer Garden - Open 11.00am until late

Restaurant - Serving meals 11am 9.30pm 7 days

Beer Awards - Pub of the Season CAMRA - Cask Marque

Food Awards - Winners of 11 National Food Awards


Pub Awards - Pub of the Year - Music Pub of the Year

Marquee Hire - Hosting Weddings - Birthdays - Christenings

BT Sports - Live coverage of your favourite sports

Children - Menu - Play garden - Pool Room - Foosball Table



The Sign of  a good pint



E-mail us and Get Our Monthly News Letter

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www.gardeners-arms.com pubs@gardeners-arms.com www.facebook.com/gardeners.arms.9



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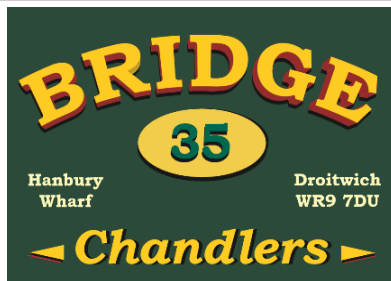
Only 2 minutes from Droitwich Spa Marina, Bridge 35 Chandlers Limited is an established and thriving chandlery business that is offered for sale as a going concern. On a prime holiday route for both private and hire boaters.

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For more information:
Contact **John** and **Jackie** via email at bridge35chandlers@gmail.com

Our friends and society members from Bridge 35 Chandlers have decided, after several years, to sell their well-respected shop at Hanbury Wharf. If any readers know of anyone interested please ask them to contact Jackie and John directly.



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Black Prince Holidays

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www.black-prince.com

0121 445 5111

Scarfield Wharf, Alvechurch, Worcestershire, B48 7SQ
www.the-weighbridge.co.uk

The Weighbridge

Enjoy lunch or an evening meal in this cosy traditional canal-side pub. Home cooked meals and bar snacks served Thursday to Monday*.

A selection of five real ales and traditional cider from independent breweries



Monday - Saturday, 12-3pm & 7-11pm

Sunday, 12-3pm & 7-10:30pm



Pub of the year

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Redditch & Bromsgrove
'05, '07, '09, '10, & '12

West Midlands

Regional Pub of the
Year 2012

*Home cooked meals Thursday to Monday time: 12-2pm & 7-9pm



If you are interested in canals, angling, boats, boat crewing, natural history, walking, cycling, photography, industrial archaeology, local history, canal work parties, preservation and enhancement of the environment as well as meeting up with like-minded people, then please consider joining this friendly Canal Society.

We hold our regular monthly meetings at the Alvechurch Boat Centre, Scarfield Wharf, Alvechurch, B48 7SQ (*just behind the award winning Weighbridge pub*) on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm. If you are in the least bit curious then please come along, as non-members are always welcome (*we publish the programme on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages*). We usually go on summer walks in July and August.

Presentations have included The Bridgewater Canal, Birmingham Roundhouse Restoration, Cotswold Canal Restoration, Idle Women, The Cadbury Story, Lapal Canal Trust Restoration, Hereford & Gloucester Canal Restoration, The Montgomery Canal, The Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal and Chance's Glassworks.

You do not need to be a boat owner as most of our members are not. If you require any other assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Further details are available on our website, Facebook and Twitter where you can find out lots more about us (*details below*).

Our own society narrowboat 'Cecilia' is available (*fully crewed*) for use by groups or individuals for half day and day trips (*Terms & Conditions Apply*).

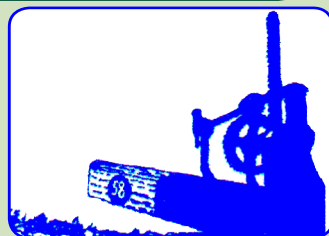
We hope to welcome as many new faces as possible from members of the community.

Please visit our website: wbdcs.org.uk
(where you can also download a membership application form)

Facebook.com/wbdcs.org.uk | Twitter: @wbdcs58



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