

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'



*St. Richard's Canal Festival 2023 from above.
Photo kindly supplied by Andrew Tidy.*



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Worcester-Birmingham
& Droitwich
Canals Society



www.wbdcs.org.uk

Issue 568 June/July 2023

Monthly Meetings

Tuesday 6th June 2023

Gavin Hawkins of Bradley Canal Restoration Trust will visit to give an update on efforts to restore this short route through the Black Country

Summer Walks

4th July 2023: A walk along the Droitwich Junction Canal:
'The Lost Treasure of the Droitwich Junction Canal'.

To be lead by Danny Spike.

Meet Waitrose car park Droitwich Spa, WR9 8EG at 7.15pm.

1st August 2023(proposed): A walk to Shortwood Tunnel (Dunnage) Woods.

Meetings

5th September 2023: AGM with guest speaker Speaker (TBA).

3rd October 2023: A chance to meet West Midlands Regional Director of C&RT Adnan Saif. He will be briefing us on how C&RT is performing locally, forthcoming plans and answering our concerns. Hopefully he will be joined by local manager Gemma Hessey.

7th November 2023: Tunnel Steam Tugs on The Worcester & Birmingham Canal - a presentation by Cath Turpin.

*Meetings are held in the meeting room behind The Weighbridge,
Scarfield Hill, Alvechurch B48 7SQ. 7.45pm start.*

Free admission. Small charge for hot drink and biscuits.

Non members very welcome.

*For those members who only receive a printed copy of '58'
please go to our website for the most up to date information.*

www.wbdcs.org.uk

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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.*

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Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society

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

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Chair's Notes

I ended my last report by saying that we were in the last stages of planning for St. Richard's Canal Festival and that we would need all the help we could get to help make it a success. The festival has come and gone during the time of my last report and this one and I have to compliment the volunteers who turned up to help. Neil might report elsewhere but we had over 40 volunteers giving their time and energy. The Tuesday before the festival nominated drivers collected 3 hire vans and that was the start of a very busy week building up the site to make sure we were ready to open to the public at 5pm on Friday. The planning of the stalls around the site could not have gone much better and on Monday I made the point of going to every stall asking how the weekend had gone, not one complaint!!! The duck race is becoming a very popular event in our festival calendar and Tony reported that all 1200 tickets had been sold two hours before the race was due to start. Yes, I did say 1200, we had decided to purchase another 200 ducks, perhaps we need another 300 for next year. The St. Richard's Canal Festival is now a real team event and is becoming enjoyable to organise. THANK YOU to all of you that helped make it another successful event.

I should also add my thanks to the local Canal & River Trust team who have continued to support this event and I hope that the attendance of the C&RT gazebos was a success for them.

One of the permanent fixtures at the festival has been our Society shop run by Lynne Laniosh. Lynne has successfully run the shop for too many years to remember but has taken the decision, that after this summer, she will be standing down. We therefore need to discuss how we move forward; do we continue the shop as Lynne has run it, selling what we can, or do we change? One thing is for sure, we will miss Lynne and I thank her for all the time and effort she has put in over the years.

At the time of writing we are coming up to our third bank holiday of May and the weather forecast for the weekend looked to be very good. Whatever you intend to do, boating, walking, cycling or even rugby league have a lovely summer

David Wheeler



Editor's Notes

Hello Readers

It's that time of the year again - warmer weather and plenty of the good old outdoors. The biggest outdoor event was undoubtedly the St. Richard's Canal Festival, celebrating 50 years since the 'Great Droitwich Dig' which commenced the canal restoration, and what a great time was had by all! None of this would, however, be possible without the work of the organising committee and the people on the ground who delivered the long weekend. Every single person involved was a volunteer and we possibly had a record number involved. The volunteers fetched and loaded the large vehicles, unloaded, set up, cleaned, litter picked, moved tables and chairs on numerous occasions, set up gazebos, staffed the society shop, judged boaters' competitions, staffed the bar, sold duck race tickets (another record), entertained guests on 'Cecilia', set up and took down security fencing, cleared the site afterwards – the list is far from exhaustive! A massive thank you was, and still is, fully deserved to every single person who helped out no matter how much – it all counted towards another very successful event. The number of positive comments from the general public was somewhat overwhelming at times.

We should also place on record the society's thanks to the 'Gardeners Arms' who supported the volunteers particularly during set up and take down times; Canal and River Trust who organised volunteers to staff the swing bridges, provided security fencing and signs for the mooring boats; Wychavon District Council who provided much in terms of programmes and publicity. All of this team work, including Paddy Grice who was site manager, just goes to show what can be achieved when like-minded people plan and co-operate together. Team work – can't beat it! More about this further on.

We have also been involved in the Alvechurch Beer Festival (*more information on page 8*).

The society will also be present at the Selly Oak Festival on June 17th which is always a busy event for the volunteers. Prior to that on June 8th (11am) many people are expected for the official opening of the new Whitehouse Wharf in Selly Oak (*see flyer on page 29*). This is where boaters will be able to enter and exit what will be the new section of canal into Selly Oak Park. All exciting stuff to which everyone is welcome to come along and help to promote the restoration project being led by the Lapal Canal Trust. The actual site is just across the main road from Selly Oak Rail Station. If as many boats as possible could attend that would be even better. Our friends from the 'Little Radford Model Boat Club', who were also on display at the St. Richard's Canal Festival, intend to be present and show off their superb collection of craft.

There have been loads more happening with your society during the past couple of months. The two meetings that took place during April and May were very different but very well supported by society members and friends – more about these further on. The fruit trees that were planted alongside the W&B in Alvechurch have all commenced growing. Who knows, we may have some actual fruit soon? (*photos on next page*)



The society has also recently been present at the 'Alvechurch Picnic in the Park'. (see page 14)

One important date for your diaries is the society's Annual General Meeting scheduled for September 5th at our usual meeting place. Under the society's constitution, we have to let members know in very good time hence this early reminder. It's very likely that some positions will need filling again as people move on but more about this will be shared in the next edition of '58'. Volunteers again - don't we keep everyone busy?



Many thanks to all of the volunteers who have sent things in again for this edition and as usual there is always room for more if readers care to send something in to us. Don't forget that the society is for members and run by members so please don't be thinking that someone else will produce the goods; 'many hands make light work' springs to mind! Hope to see as many of you as possible at the next society events.

Enjoy the read.

John Hemingway

Weighbridge Beer Festival

Volunteers set up one of the society gazebos as both an information stall and small shop where we sold tickets for a prize draw of a Lenovo 10" tablet, which was kindly donated to our society and worth well over £100. We generated significant interest and raised funds of over £300. The shop had good sales as well - so many thanks to Lynne for running that. The computer generated draw was completed on the Sunday afternoon with the winner being informed and the prize duly awarded. Many thanks to all of the people who bought tickets but only one winner this time and what a great prize!



Shop Report

Our stall is now getting out and about again. A successful weekend was had at St. Richard's Canal Festival where our shop worked side by side with the duck race ticket sales team. Our second hand jigsaws were particularly popular and the duck race tickets sold out in record time; we were pleased to play a small part in the overall success of the weekend.

A few weeks later we spent an enjoyable two days at the Weighbridge Beer Festival in Alvechurch with our stall set up within sight of the bar. Alongside the shop we ran a prize draw and had a small display of promotional material. The prize, a Lenovo tab M10, which was won by ticket number 6, has been delivered to the delighted recipient.

Attendance at both of these events was only possible with the support of a significant number of volunteer helpers - everyone's contribution was greatly appreciated.

Upcoming events for our stall include Selly Oak Festival on Saturday 17th June and Primrose Hospice Summer Fayre on Saturday 1st July. In addition, we have booked a pitch at Bratch Rally, on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, which will take place on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September. Plans for all of these are well underway, but as usual we would benefit from more of you getting involved. If you are able to offer an hour or more of your time for any of the above events, please do let me know.

At the time of writing, a couple of further events are also being considered. Look out for more details soon.

Lynne Laniosh

New Members

The following people have recently joined the society:

Duncan & Lisa Myttion from Bromsgrove

Anita & Paul Hodgkiss from Northfield

Ian Montgomery from Thorgumbald has also re-joined.

'58' offers its customary warm welcome into membership and hopes to see our new members at any of our forthcoming activities.

If any members change their name, address or other contact details please let our Membership Secretary know as soon as possible.

Canal & River Trust Sign

This sign was recently displayed at Diglis Basin by Canal & River Trust. Many people have commented on it on social media as they don't seem to understand it. What do you think? Does it make sense? We have contacted C&RT on their Twitter page for clarification. Apart from saying "they will look into it" we haven't heard since.





‘Nature Notes’ Mary Green

It's a pleasure to report that the orchard trees planted by WB&DCS for C&RT near Bridge 60 in Alvechurch are thriving and many have flowered even though still saplings. It's a shame that existing fruit trees aren't looked after better. There was a lovely old bullace (wild plum) just past Bittell reservoir which was cut off in the winter, either by C&RT or our volunteers. It overhung the path but didn't interfere with the canal. I guess people didn't know what it was. (You don't know what you've got till it's gone) There are a lot of old orchard trees near the canal though, some in Alvechurch opposite the new ones, others by Bridge 59 and round Tardebigge and Bittell.

Everything natural is late this year, but at least that means the different elements of our natural world aren't out of synch with each other. It's a long time since I haven't seen ducklings until the May bank holiday weekend, but I guess they came at the right time for their food to be ready.

There's a pair of Canada geese nesting by the canal near the Dead Arm, the male very watchful and guarding the female from any danger including humans and dogs. Now another pair have appeared near me with a good clutch of goslings. And there is a pair of greylag geese about, not so common.

I've seen a new pair of swans here mating, but I'm not sure if they're nesting.

I've noticed recently how many little patches of old woodland there are alongside the canal, and how they contribute to its role in supporting wildlife. Of course, when you think about it, everywhere round here was

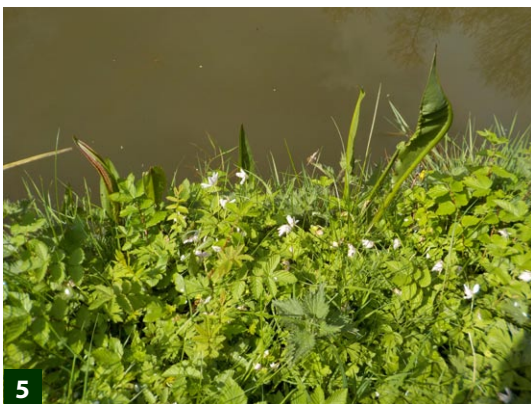


once old woodland. But the plants and other organisms that mark old woodland only persist in places where the soil has been left relatively undisturbed. Although the canal meant a digging up and disturbance of the environment, the land alongside it was often left alone and the trees and plants left to grow.

Sometimes you can see that the canal must have been carved through a wood even though there are now fields. There's a stretch between bridges 59 and 60 where you can see the bluebells and old trees on both sides. On other stretches, you can see it followed an old hedge with its trees left intact though the land next to it was already pasture or cultivated. That old hedge was sometimes in itself a remnant of old woodland. Here in Alvechurch you can see places where there was old hedging, including big old oak and ash trees, and other places where the canal has newer trees along it, especially alder, so it was probably not wooded when it was cut.

Now and then you see bluebells, yellow archangel, wood anemones and wild garlic, all old woodland plants, showing where woodland was. These plants all flower early because they expect tree cover later and need the sunlight. They thrive so long as they can flower but can be damaged if mowing is done in spring. I've given up hoping that mowing regimes along the canal will be made to match the plants they deal with though. This year they mowed out some of these woodland edge plants in April. I don't hold out much hope for that pyramidal orchid this year.

When the hedge-side flowers stop, the plants on the water's edge begin to flower. Yellow iris and hemlock water dropwort come out in June and are followed by marsh woundwort and meadowsweet. Look out for them and their butterflies, bees and dragonflies.



1. PEAR TREE BY BRIDGE
2. GEESE & GOSLINGS
3. OLD WOODLAND REMNANT BY THE CANAL
4. MATING SWANS
5. WOOD ANEMONIES

Worcester

What an odd city. High Street thriving
Full of a foodie festival and posh shops
But the road I dive down towards the canal
Is the one with sex shops and Polish delis
And artists of course, who live in the cracks
Of the seedy bits of town, and blossom.
The canalsides have just been mown
Vestiges of mallow, bartsia and medick.
Industrial walls, with children's murals
Bright and beautiful against the grey
Reminding me canals were not cut
In the pretty part of town with the Hopmarket
The soaring Cathedral, the pompous Guildhall
But in a dirty place round the back
Where coal boats and grain boats passed
Among the bargees and immigrants
And the artists of course, still blooming
Along the walls, where flowers are cut down.

More On Nature

During St. Richard's Canal Festival weekend, individual adult swans were seen paddling around the Vines Park area. They were perhaps waiting for the area to become quieter again as their newly hatched young were seen very soon after the festival. Looks like they have hatched about eight young and a beautiful sight they are. Let's hope more of them survive this year than last.



They may have also been waiting for the dredgers to cease operations. The loaded mud boats were back and forth along the Barge Canal during the week when the St. Richard's Canal Festival site was being built up. Most of the silt being removed apparently came from the Body Brook which the Junction Canal feeds into just above the very low M5 tunnel. The work has made a big difference in this area which is much improved following the build-up of silt during the wet Winter months.



Tardebigge Flight

Some scenes from the longest flight of narrow locks in the country.

Just prior to St. Richard's Canal Festival, there was a period of extremely wet weather. The canals were overflowing in parts such as the amount of water draining into the system. Tardebigge Reservoir was actually overflowing into the canal as shown here. Just below the halfway house area and down from the Upper Gambolds reservoir site there appears to be another bi-pass channel which has been excavated on the non-towpath side. Perhaps it was there already but somewhat overgrown? However, the amount of water coming down it just showed how much rain there had been. If anyone has any further information about this new (?) channel '58' would be pleased to hear from you.



Blue Carpeted Fields

These blue carpeted fields appeared alongside the W&B on the Tardebigge Flight.

Pictures by Madelaine Cleaver.



'Cecilia' News

Our society narrow boat 'Cecilia' started the new season in April by welcoming on board three groups of young people from the YSS Worcestershire Young Carers' Association.



We already cater for groups of adult carers but I soon realised that there must be a need for young carers to enjoy a relaxing trip on board 'Cecilia'.

Once I was put in touch with YSS WYC I was really shocked, and surprised, to hear that there were over 700 registered young carers in Worcestershire alone and we have been happy to work closely with them to facilitate these trips - with more to come. Chris Gibbs and myself were also invited to their conference at Worcester Sixways and were humbled to hear what these youngsters do to support siblings and parents, so being able to take them out on trips will be a privilege. I'm sure you would agree.



Grant Application

We are pleased to announce that we've just been notified of a successful grant application!

We have been awarded £1000 by the Bromsgrove District Council Equality Small Grants scheme 2023/24, to provide a number of free trips on 'Cecilia' to deserving groups and families from the Bromsgrove Council area. The council officers obviously agreed with our ethos of providing trips to people who may otherwise never get the opportunity of travelling on a beautiful stretch of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal.



**Bromsgrove
District Council**

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

More information and photographs will follow when the trips have taken place.

Wendy Albutt – 'Cecilia' bookings co-ordinator.

'Cecilia' Trip

At the same time as the Weighbridge Beer Festival (reported on page 8) our volunteers were also crewing trips for The Alvechurch Village Society (AVS). There were two trips for 48 passengers. 12 boarded at Alvechurch to travel to Hopwood, then 12 boarded at Hopwood for a trip to Alvechurch. This was repeated again later in the day. AVS members thoroughly enjoyed their time. Here are some photos from the day.



Alvechurch Picnic In The Park 2023

Volunteers erected one of our gazebos at the ever popular Alvechurch Picnic in the Park on Sunday 28th May. We had plenty of promotional material available for visitors to the park. The badge making team were on duty and did a roaring trade with some items actually running out - fortunately at the end of the afternoon. All of this was run once again by society volunteers on what proved to be a great day.



The highlight of the day had to be when a Spitfire and a Hurricane flew over doing three passes.



Society Meeting: April 2023

Wonders of The West Country

The April meeting went ahead as described in the last edition of '58' and what a superb presentation by **Roger Butler**.

The talk was introduced by an explanation about the canal system in the South West of the country being 'stand - alone' navigations in that they are, or were, unconnected to the main network of canals. They were nevertheless made full use of in transporting bulky goods mainly to and from sea ports. Many are still in use e.g. Bridgwater Canal in Somerset and the Exeter Ship Canal, albeit mainly for the leisure industry. Roger showed the meeting a map of the canals in this chosen area with many at the meeting unaware of their existence. However, despite many of the navigations now being derelict, Roger took us on a journey of exploration to see what remains of some of them which turned out to be absolutely spellbinding. The engineering skill that went into so many of them was just amazing with, in some cases, what appeared to be 'no expense spared'. One such example was the Chard Canal in Somerset, which while being derelict, had an amazing tunnel which was actually entered by Roger and a local expert on a canoe. The tunnel lining and colourisation of it was just awesome.

Roger showed us several other examples some of which are in the process of being excavated e.g. the Stover Canal, which has a restoration group who have exposed some very early stone tramways used to transport goods to and from the canal itself. This was a well enjoyed talk given by someone who will surely have more to share in the future. Thanks from the members present were roundly given to Roger Butler for his presentation.



Society Meeting: May 2023

The May meeting was so different yet still enjoyed by those present. The talk was about the **'Sewern Freewheelers Voluntary Service Delivering Blood'**. These skilled volunteers are often called upon to deliver urgent items, such as blood, to various N.H.S. venues within a large area. There is a co-ordinator who directs the on-call volunteers to various pick up and delivery points with their method of transport being well equipped motor bikes. The timings for these requests can be during the day or night time dependent upon the needs with the drivers agreeing a set period of time when they know that they are on call.

The bikers are required to do rigorous training with regular updates which is very understandable when considering their responsibilities including the motor bikes. Many people may already have benefitted from the services of these volunteers without even knowing it. The members present acknowledging this in the usual way.



Volunteer News

It's been a while since our last '58' and the big event was St. Richard's Canal Festival where we had roughly 40 people volunteering - amazing!

However, before that we had to get 'Cecilia' down to Droitwich. In this we were ably assisted by the promotional staff of Primrose Hospice. They used the trip down the Tardebigge Flight as a trial run to see if they could use the experience for Corporate Team Building Courses. They found



it did fit with their requirements, so you may soon see 'Cecilia' on the flight surrounded by people trying to contact New York on their mobile phones!

We made it down to Netherwich Basin although the water in the M5 tunnel was high but not high enough to stop our crew. On the way down we saw the work being carried out on behalf of C&RT to dredge the canal where the silt from the Body Brook formed a whale in the middle of the waterway stopping navigation. Fair play to C&RT, they arranged the dredger and cleared the waterway and the Body Brook while they were there. That's why they need to keep their full grant from the government. Tell your MP!

On to Droitwich where there was more dredging going on, obviously for the Duck Race we thought. Amazingly not, we were told! But the good news is that they continually sampled the water to make sure it was suitable to go down the river. The silt they took out of the canal, however, was far from clean and had to be taken away to a special place for contaminated spoil. More money being spent by C&RT in a good cause and we are talking big money!

So we moored up at Vines Park to set-up St. Richard's Canal Festival. A good time was had by all but I must mention some special people.

Firstly was 'Cecilia' herself, she became the centre for volunteering in the park - a place where friends of the society could come and relax with the kettle always on. This was so successful that we hope to repeat next year.

Secondly, was our shop run by Lynne, ably assisted by Trevor, her new prodigy, who can sell coal to a coal merchant! This will probably be the last year we see Lynne in this role at St. Richard's Canal Festival so a big thank you to her for all of her hard work over the years. Not that many years honest!



Volunteer News

We won't forget the bar volunteers led by Nick and Sue. They work so hard to deliver the beer to our valued public with the help of family, friends and volunteers, particularly Sophie, Peter and Daz. Don't forget if you fancy pulling a pint come and join us next year.

We must not forget Denis Pike - the doyen of the dance floor! You should see his moves to Skabucks.

Lastly, I must thank all the crew who put the festival away on the Tuesday whilst I was poorly at home in bed!

We are in salad days and the work of the volunteers doesn't stop. We have been busy taking the C&RT work boat 'Rae' up to the Shirley Draw Bridge to check her electrics out. At Tardebigge we have established no mow areas and at Alvechurch we have put signs up at the Linear Orchard. *(more about the orchard in the Editor's report).*



Whilst all this has been going on 'Cecilia' has been taking people out on the water like 'Worcester Carers' and 'Alvechurch Village Society', which reminds me we were also at the 'Alvechurch Picnic in the Park'. That John Talbut knows how to make a badge!

And finally I can say with certainty we were the best looking volunteer stall members at the Alvechurch Beer Festival. Yes, ok we were the only volunteer stall at the Beer Festival!

So thanks everyone who volunteered over this busy period, we couldn't have done it without you and if you fancy joining a warm hearted group of volunteers, please let me know and I will give you a membership form.



Neil Franklin Volunteer coordinator.

St. Richard's Canal Festival Pictures Round Up



The Great Droitwich Duck Hunt
 Find the 20 duck pictures
 Scattered around VINES PARK
 Every child entry receives
 a small squeaky duck
 chance to WIN our big duck!
 £1 per entry

Worcester & Birmingham
 Canals Society



St. Richard's Canal Festival Pictures Round Up cont.



Lapal Canal Trust News

Whitehouse Wharf Opening

Our friends from the Lapal Canal Trust continue to progress the restoration of the derelict section of the Dudley No. 2 Canal. The next events are the official opening of the new Whitehouse Wharf in Selly Oak on June 8th (see page 25) and alongside WB&DCS at the Selly Oak Festival. Everyone is welcome to come along to these, and in terms of the Whitehouse Wharf event, it is just across the road from the railway station if that helps anyone? It is intended to encourage as many boaters as possible to attend, including 'Cecilia', on what should be a big publicity event with media presence. Society friends from the 'Little Radford Model Boat Club' also intend to be present to add even more attraction to the event.

Boat Trips for Ukranian Refugees

In addition, the Trust has been organising canal boat trips with some in conjunction with society boat 'Cecilia'. Hugh Humphreys writes:

Very pleased to be able to provide two boat trips for a 2nd group of over 70 Ukranian refugees. The programme is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. Big thanks for glorious weather and to Victoria and Ilona from Odessa for brilliant organisation. They commented "It was an amazing day that everyone will remember for a long time. We have been living in Birmingham for a year now, but for the first time we saw the city from such an angle, beautiful views, flowering trees and a very friendly boat crew including a dog. We have dozens of grateful comments and wishes from women and children from Zaporozhye, Odessa, Kiev, Kharkov, Khmelnytsky, Kherson, Kolomiya, Uzhgorod, Nikolaev, Dnepropetrovsk and Lvov. The most beautiful thing in your city are the people with kind hearts who have been supporting us for a year."

Very well done to LCT for this clearly much appreciated trip on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal.

Meanwhile, fund raising activities are continuing with the 'Just Giving Campaign' aimed at opening up the small tunnel under the ring road by Selly Oak Park.



Help us open this towpath

We would love you to be able to walk through the tunnel under Harborne Lane.
Help us raise the £80K required via our Just Giving Campaign Page.

Thank You!



Please use the QR code to donate. Thank you!



You are cordially invited to the

**GRAND
OPENING**

*Whitehouse
Wharf*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH
11AM**

CANAL MARINA, OPPOSITE THE UNITE STUDENTS BUILDING
(BESIDE THE BRIDGE ON BRISTOL RD, SELLY OAK)

**With Special Guests
Mayor of the West Midlands
Andy Street
&
Cllr Liz Clements**

Donations

We have introduced new and easier ways of making donations to our 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:

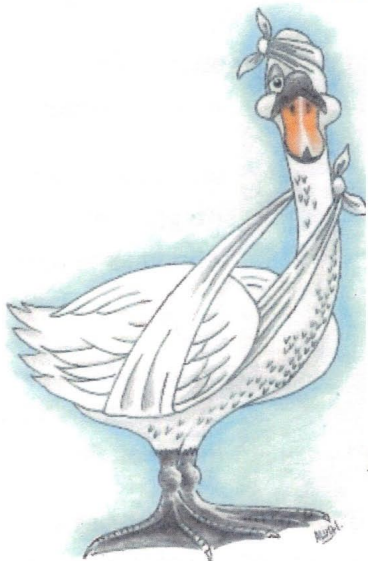
[https://www.](https://www.justgiving.com/wbdc)

[justgiving.com/](https://www.justgiving.com/wbdc)

[wbdc](https://www.justgiving.com/wbdc)

Wychbold Swan Rescue

www.wychboldswanrescue.co.uk

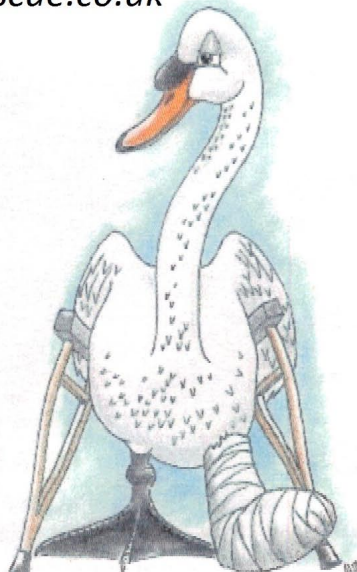


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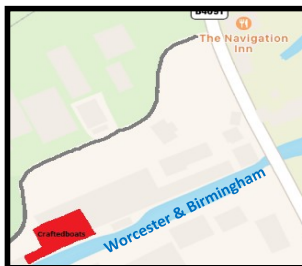
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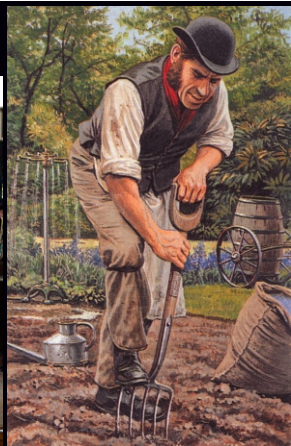


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Our friends and society members from Bridge 35 Chandlers have decided, after several years, to sell their well-respected shop at Hanbury Wharf. If any readers know of anyone interested please ask them to contact Jackie and John directly.



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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 (disability compliant). 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, Stourbridge Extension 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*).

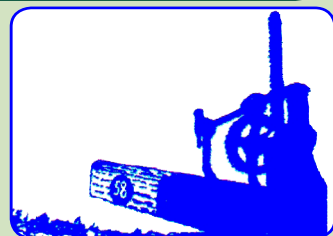
We hope to welcome as many new faces as possible from members of the community.

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

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