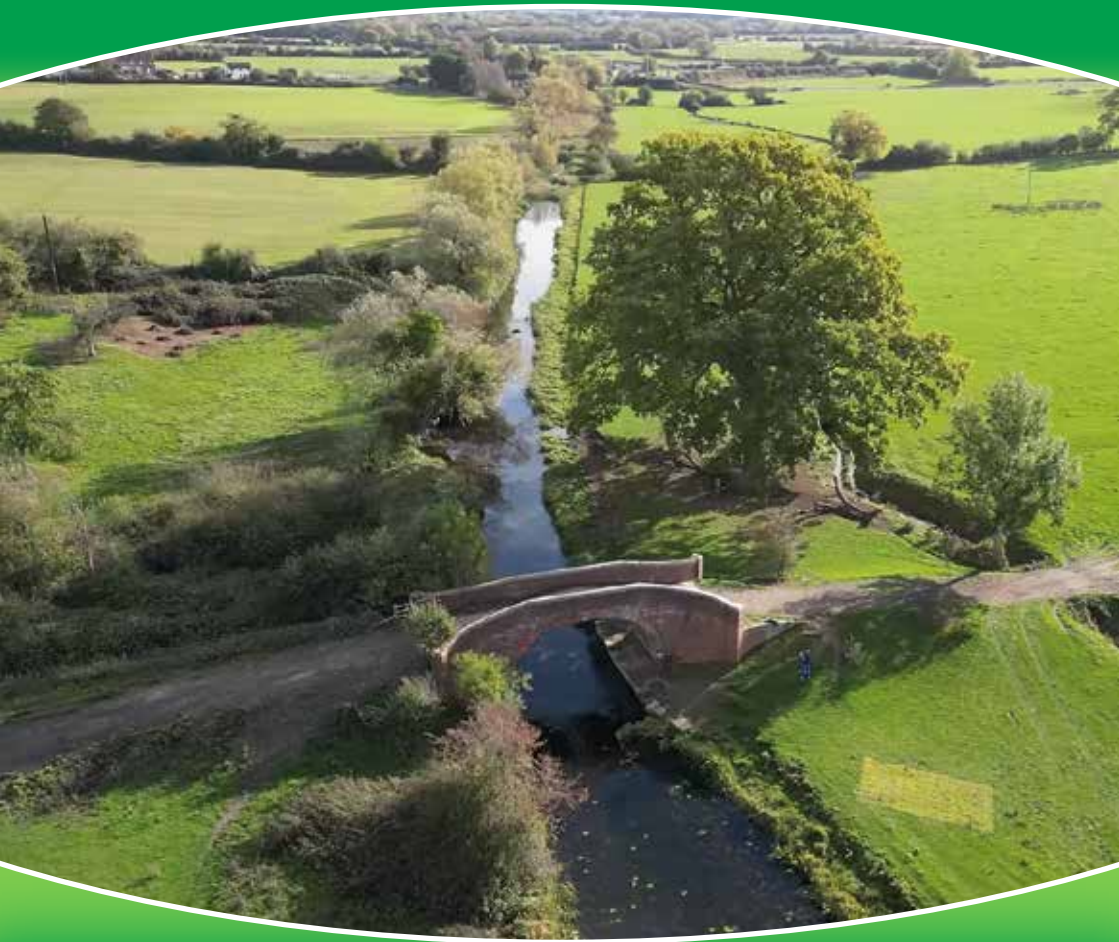


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WELCOME TO 2024

by John Newton,

Interim CCT Chair
& Project Director



John Newton



Alan Jones



A New Year

Welcome to the first edition of *The Trow* for 2024. Alan Jones and myself (interim Trust Chairs) hope all of you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas as we look forward to the opportunities and challenges in this New Year.

Reflecting on 2023

During the year, we had our ups and downs, none more so than losing our Chair Jim White so suddenly in October. Jim and myself were in contact most days and I have lost a very close friend as will have many others both within our Trust and elsewhere.

We have remained in contact with his wife Caroline and family and on page eight we have reproduced the eulogy given by Jim's son Jon at the funeral. The service had to be restricted in numbers in view of Jim's popularity.

With his family's approval we have arranged a memorial event to celebrate his life and contribution to the Cotswold Canals Trust at Stroud Brewery on Sunday March 24th. All are invited to attend. It is our intention to update attendees on our canal activities and seek funds from various sources to enable us to sponsor and name a new lock or gates within the current canal Phase 1B restoration project in which Jim was so heavily involved.

Reorganising

During 2023 we have also been reflecting and consulting on how best to manage our multitude of activities within the canal family going forward to reconnect Stroud and Stonehouse to the national waterways network. This encompasses several different

organisations and partners including, but not limited to, Stroud District Council (SDC), Gloucestershire County Council, Canal & River Trust, Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC), Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

It is not surprising that people can get confused about who is doing what but we have concluded that to get things done we should all be working closely together. Restoring canals is a complex mission with many hurdles to overcome!

In particular, discussions are taking place between CCT and SVCC and it has been agreed in principle that it is sensible to combine restoration, maintenance and eventual management of a navigable canal (a 24/7 responsibility) within CCT rather than split between the two charities.

It is envisaged that SVCC remains a charity mainly acting as the 'landlord' of the canal infrastructure with CCT volunteers managing the various operations. We are currently discussing the details with SVCC directors and how the two charity structures are optimised.

Onwards and Upwards in the East

At the eastern end of the Thames & Severn Canal, huge strides forward have been made in 2023, creating a brand new depot and new visitor centre in the heart of the Cotswold Lakes development. Both are led by our director John Allan to whom we extend many thanks.

We now have a great springboard to further our restoration ideas and projects along this important section of canal.

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So what for 2024?

Firstly, really good news! David Hagg has agreed to become our new CCT Chair. David was a prime mover within Stroud District Council supporting the Phase 1A restoration and he is currently Chair of the Cotswold Canals Partnership which encompasses the complete canal length to the Thames and includes Cotswold District Council and Wiltshire Unitary Authority among others.

David has recently been Chair of one of the Canal & River Trust regions so brings a wealth of experience to support us, and we are therefore delighted to welcome him on board.

Phase 1B volunteering

Chris Mitford-Slade has written a detailed Phase 1B restoration update on Page 12. The key milestone needed to achieve this year is to finally secure planning permission for the 'Missing Mile' section of canal between the A38 roundabout and Westfield Bridge.

Due to ever-rising costs, the 1B Partnership is looking to maximise CCT volunteer involvement. Volunteers are scheduled to undertake several projects along Section 3 of Phase 1B (The Ocean to Westfield Bridge) which must be completed by 2025 to meet the National Lottery Heritage Fund deadline.

The CCT is also hoping to be able to commence work in 2024 to excavate the Missing Mile west of the M5 and construct the new lock adjacent to the A38 roundabout – this will require a lot of volunteers and careful planning! Therefore a big challenge but a massive opportunity for us to now contribute significantly to the Phase 1B restoration following a few lean years.

A CCT project team has been set up to co-ordinate these activities; many volunteers (new and existing) have already expressed an interest and anyone else available to become involved should contact our office in the first instance.

We believe the Waterway Recovery Group volunteers may also be available during 2024



David Hagg with H.R.H. The Prince of Wales on 2nd February 2018 during a visit to Wallbridge celebrating completion of Phase 1A MG

to continue their impressive restoration work at John Robinson Lock (formerly Westfield Lock). Their assistance and support is very much appreciated.

In conclusion

2024 is looking to be an exciting one, both in our western and eastern sections and of course would not be possible without the continued support of both you, our members, and our numerous volunteers (around 350) involved in such a wide-ranging variety of activities.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming involved in our canal family, I can assure you that we can find a role!

Many thanks again.

EULOGY FOR JIM WHITE

Given by Jim's son Jon at the funeral in
Cheltenham on Friday 3rd November 2023

Good afternoon, and on behalf of Caroline and the family we would like to thank you for joining us today as we remember James Andrew Pierce White, known as Jim and my Dad.

I never expected to be standing here today. I'm sure that along with many of you here we just assumed that he would live forever. For him there was still so much to do and as the novelist Pearl Buck said, for Dad *'To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth'*.

But, after recovering from the shock, I find great comfort in knowing that Dad's life was one that was well led, where happiness was found through giving without the need for reward and self-pride, was achieved by outcomes, not dreams. It was John Lennon who said *'count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears'*. So, for me I know that my Dad's life was a long and happy one.

Dad was born on the 16th May 1939. At the time of his birth, his father William Arthur Reginald White, or WAR was aged 41 and his mother, Matilda aged 42 and it is fair to say that he was a surprise, but a good one. He had an older brother Roy, born in 1924 and sister Margaret born in 1931, who along with his parents both loved and spoiled him rotten.

Growing up in Hornchurch, on the outskirts of London during the Second World War, and so close to RAF Hornchurch, you would have expected his early life to have been tough, but for Dad it was just fun and without fear. For those of us lucky enough to know his parents and siblings this comes as no surprise. Dad drew the same strength from his father as I did from him. Grandad had lied about his age in 1914 and joined the Royal Navy at the start of the First World War. But, when he turned up at the recruiting office in 1939 he was unable to repeat his trick so he spent the rest of war as an

Air Raid Warden in London. One of Dad's early memories, and a happy one, is standing on top of their air raid shelter holding Grandad's hand as they watched the dogfights overhead. However, it is a surprise that any of them lived past 1942 when an unexploded bomb lodged itself in the roof of their house. As was Grandad's way, he removed the bomb and placed it in his wheelbarrow before wheeling it to the bottom of the allotment.

Dad attended junior school from 1945 to 1950 in Hornchurch, before joining South-East Essex County Technical College from 1950 to 1955. He left at the age of 16 in 1955, joining Plessey as an apprentice engineer.

By 1956, he had saved up enough to buy his touring bicycle, which he bought in parts, from numerous suppliers to be constructed by him. His itemised list has 20 parts totalling up to a cost of £31 pounds 16 shillings and two pence. It was on this bike with John Snail, his great friend, that they toured the UK. It had been their intention to get back on the road again when they retired in 1999. Unfortunately, John died shortly after he retired at the age of 60.

He completed his engineering degree in 1960 and, in July 1964, moved to Cheltenham to join Smiths Industries as an engineer. He worked there from 1964 to 1969, before joining Dowty Electrics, which then became Ultra. He stayed with them for 30 years retiring in 1999, aged sixty.

I came along in 1967 and my sister Allie in 1970. In 1978, inspired by the TV series *The Good Life*, we moved to the village of Gotherington. For myself and Allie these were happy times, caring for goats, ducks and litters of Labrador puppies while dad went about rewiring the house, putting in central heating and building a brick goat shed. As an engineer he could turn his hand to anything. Nothing was replaced if it could be repaired, from cars to washing machines although you wouldn't trust him with washing your whites or cooking your supper. As children this was a time when by deeds and actions Dad showed his love for us and taught us to be confident of ourselves when we went

out into the world. For me, he gave me the greatest gift anyone could ever give another person - he believed in me.

In the '70s and '80s he was the church warden for St Matthew's & The Minster, here in Cheltenham during which time he was heavily involved in the refurbishment of both churches and the extension to the rear of St Matthew's. His other duty was the annual fireworks display in a quarry on Leckhampton Hill, which was a sight to behold.

As an engineer, Dad loved nothing more than solving a problem, especially if it involved some technical drawing. Myself, and Grandad as a founding member of the Fleet Air Arm both took great pride in the fact he designed the Royal Navy's Sea Harrier joystick and control systems, a plane that took such prominence during the 1982 Falklands conflict. My dad in discussion earlier this year said his greatest achievement during his working life was the gun control systems on the Challenger Two Main Battle Tank, a tank which is currently on the front line in Ukraine.

His first marriage ended in 1986 and according to Dad, his life started on 26th June 1990 when he married Caroline. As Alison, Caroline's daughter said, they lived the dream and for the next 33 years were madly in love. It was great to see them together and hear about their latest adventure, be it walking in the Alps or dancing the weekend away in Torquay. Always active, they were an inspiration. In 2001, they became involved with the Willow Trust as volunteers, a trust whose aim is to provide a unique opportunity for people of all ages with a disability or serious illness to enjoy a day out on the water. In 2002, Dad qualified as an Inland Waterways Skipper, a role he kept until 2010.

His path to becoming the Chair of the Cotswold Canals Trust started in August 2004 when he hurt his hip while walking in the Ratikon mountain range in central eastern Alps. He knew he should be doing something else, but did not know what. He was still doing 20 mile walks up until July 2010, when he fell



and fractured his hip. As a result, he had to stop working with the Willow Trust and in September 2010 he attended a presentation by the Cotswold Canals Trust and became infused. He started designing paddle gear and was elected Vice Chair of the CCT in November 2012. John Newton, who Dad held in high regard, has kindly agreed to talk about Dad's time with the Trust, which Dad believed was his 'fountain of youth'. In my last conversation, he stated he was aiming to complete the project before he retired, but he was not looking forward to it ending.

Dad's last day was a good day in his book. It started at 6am in his office with canal business, at 9am he had breakfast with Caroline and then at 11am they went to meet friends over a coffee. Supper was a home-cooked fish pie by Alison. It was with Alison's and Amey's tireless help over the last few years that ensured Dad and Caroline were able to continue to live an independent and fulfilling life.

If Dad was here today he would have two concerns. The first, way out in front, would be Caroline. The second would be the completion of the canal. Looking around the congregation today I know we will all do our very best with the first. I hope and pray that you will complete the second.

Death is an end of life, but not the end of a relationship. So, he will be watching. We are going to miss you. Your integrity and generous soul will stay with us forever. So, lets be thankful for a life well led and the best husband, Dad, father-in-law and Grandad we could have had.

THE LATE JIM WHITE - CCT CHAIR 2015-2023

by John Newton and Lisa Mant

As sadly reported in the last *Trow*, Jim White passed away suddenly on 13th October 2023.

Jim joined the Trust as a volunteer in 2011 and used his expertise and passion as a chartered mechanical engineer to the benefit of the charity, designing and arranging the production of the paddle gear used on some of our locks, many of which are in operation along Phase 1A. More recently, Jim was heavily involved in the lock gate design process and was a key Executive Board Member for the *Cotswold Canals Connected* Phase 1B project.

In 2015, Jim was elected into the role of Chair of Trustees and was instrumental in leading the charity through many significant milestones and achievements. These included the bid submission and project development to completion for Phase 1A, receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Services in 2021 presented by Edward Gillespie OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and a leading figure in the successful bid submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for *Cotswold Canals Connected* Phase 1B Project.

Jim was a great ambassador for the Trust, always promoting the charity with the public and external bodies, out on the towpath watching with interest at the progress and difference the volunteers were making,



regularly visiting the depots and he was in the office at least twice a week.

He was pretty much working a full time job in a voluntary role!

Help us to celebrate his life

On Sunday 24th March CCT will host a celebration of and tribute to Jim's life with CCT. The event will be held Stroud Brewery in the Balcony Bar between 2pm and 4pm.

This will be a chance for everyone to come together and pay their respects to Jim and his family and an opportunity to sign the book of condolence, share stories and remember the fond times they spent with him.

Everyone is welcome, the invite is open to those who knew Jim not only through the canal family but his other hobbies and interests. CCT Trustees will be presenting a collection of their favourite CCT slides and memories involving Jim and recalling the many achievements Jim had with the Charity.

The event will also premiere the full version *Cotswold Canals Trust 50th Anniversary film* where Jim features in his role as Chair of Trustees. The film highlights the passion Jim, amongst many others of course, had for the charity and the ambition to restore the Cotswold Canals to their full glory of a navigable waterway.

To round off, John Newton will give an update on current projects and plans.



A lasting legacy

We know that many of you will want to mark Jim's memory and achievements and we feel as a fitting tribute and lasting legacy to Jim, a memorial fund will be launched in the hope of raising £120,000 to fund a new set of lock gates, the project he was leading and very close to his heart.

If you would like to support this appeal, you can donate online, by bank transfer or by sending your donation by post.

We hope you are able to support this appeal so the memory of Jim can be truly etched in the Cotswold Canals as a lasting legacy.

JIM WHITE MEMORIAL APPEAL



Help us keep the memory of Jim alive and celebrate all he achieved for the Cotswold Canals Trust by donating to the *Lock Gate Appeal*.

Thank you for your support.

Donate Online

The quickest and easiest way to donate is through our website.

www.cotswoldcanals.org/support-us/donate-to-support-us/

Donate by Bank Transfer

To send a payment by bank transfer, use the bank details:

'The Cotswold Canals Trust'

Sort Code: 20-33-83

Account Number: 33816346

Please use the Reference 'Lock Gate Appeal' + Your Name and Membership No.

By Post

Send a cheque made payable to *The Cotswold Canals Trust* and post to Bell House, Wallbridge, Stroud, GL5 3JS. Please enclose your name, address and membership number if you would like us to record your donation against the appeal.

Gift Aid

Don't forget if you are you a standard UK taxpayer, we can claim an extra 25% through Gift Aid on your donation, that's 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

If we do not have a signed Gift Aid Declaration on record for you, please complete the form and return with your donation. This is automatically calculated with online donations.

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- I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
- I understand that The Cotswold Canals Trust will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that donate.
- I also understand that if I pay tax at the higher rate I can claim further tax relief via my HMRC Self-Assessment tax return.

Title First name or initial(s) Surname

Full Home address.....

..... Postcode

Date..... Signature

PHASE 1B - COTSWOLD CANALS CONNECTED



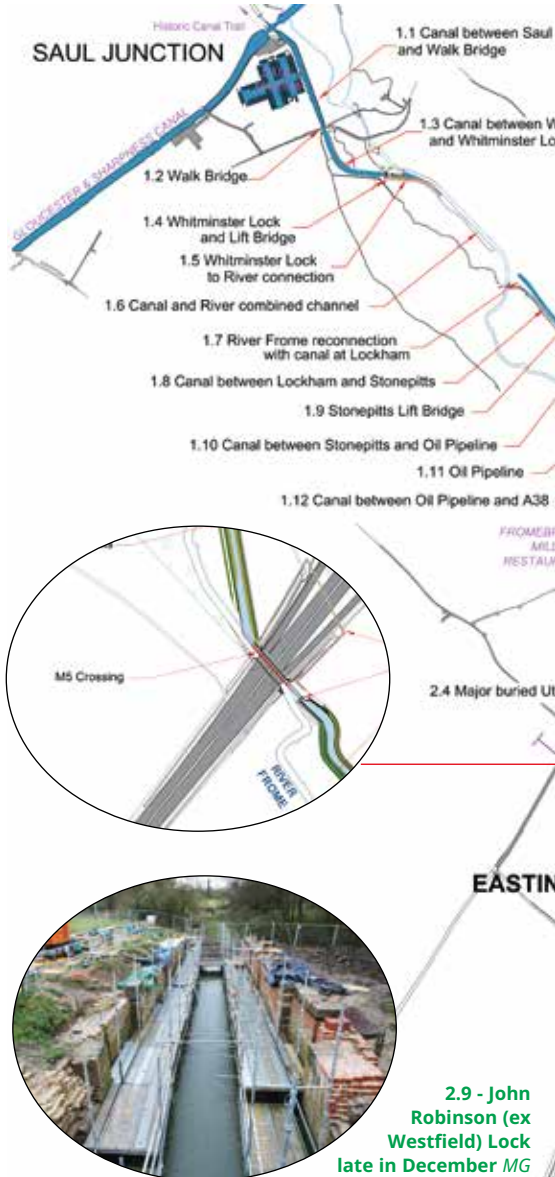
by Chris Mitford-Slade,

Project Director, Cotswold Canals Connected Phase 1B

I am writing this article as we enter the New Year and am hoping to bring you glad tidings for the year ahead. First of all, the National Heritage Lottery Fund endorsed our revised programme of work which I presented at the Annual General Meeting in November. This was great news and ensures their continued commitment and support to the project. Secondly, we overcame the final hurdles of the “Missing Mile” planning application and now expect to receive planning approval by Easter 2024.

The planning application has been a complex, lengthy and frustrating process. When I took over as Project Director in September 2021, I was led to believe that this was all in hand. I could write several chapters on the journey that we have been through to satisfy all of the statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England, Highways and numerous government departments) but suffice to say we have now answered their questions and addressed their concerns – I hope that I will be able to confirm this in the summer edition of *The Trow*.

Our focus continues to be the restoration of the western section (Stonehouse to Saul Junction) of the Cotswold Canals. Pike Lock (3.4 on the map) is now restored and is ready for the installation of the first set of lock gates which is currently out to the tender. Newtown Lock (3.8) is being completed by CCT volunteers whilst the Waterways Recovery Group continue the restoration of John Robinson (formerly Westfield) Lock (2.9). The majority of this section of the canal will be restored by volunteers and John Newton is currently working up a plan to complete the restoration over the next two years. Volunteer projects will include the stabilisation of Bond’s Mill embankment (3.11), restoration of Dock Lock (3.2), construction of



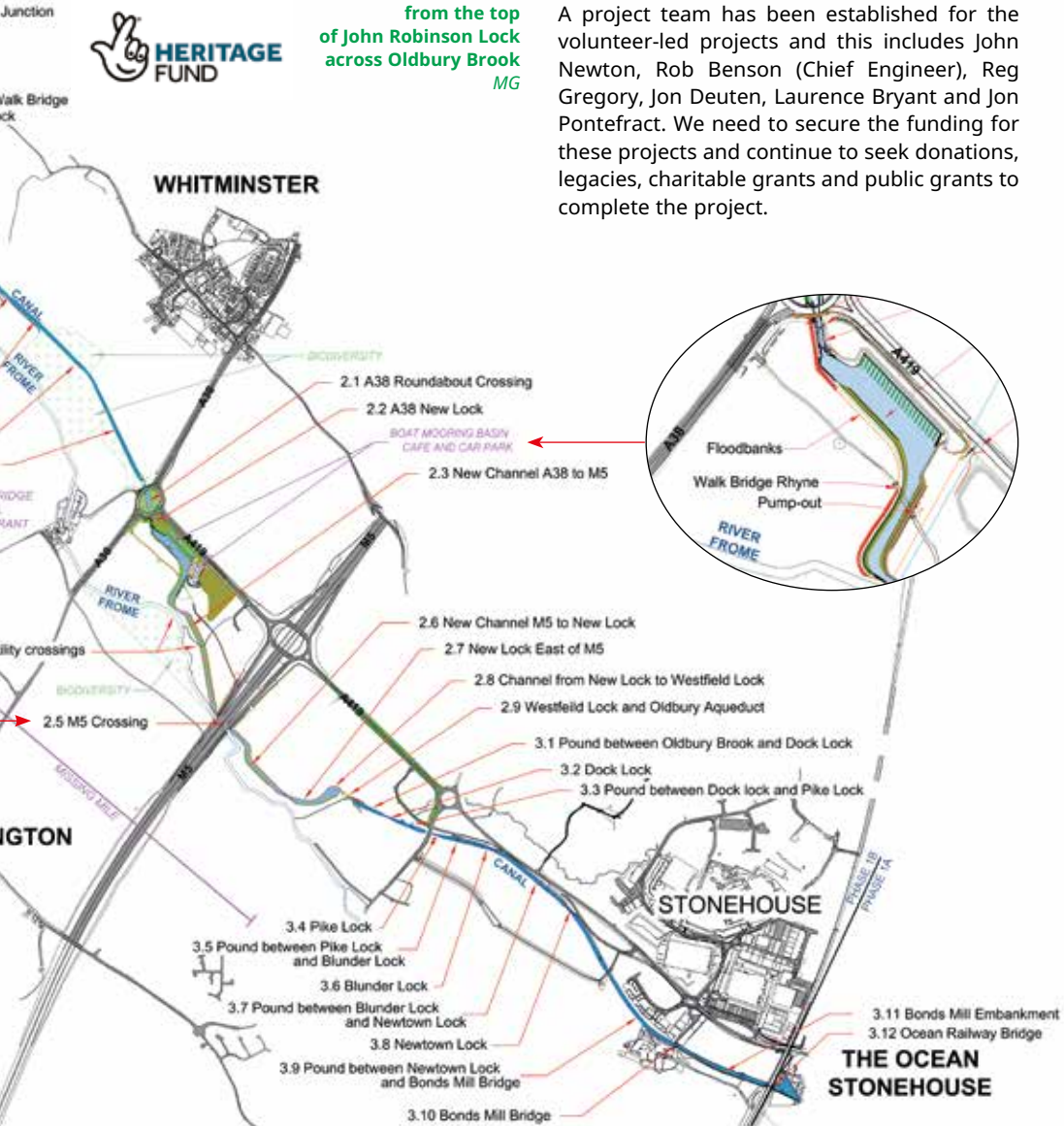
2.9 - John Robinson (ex Westfield) Lock late in December MG



2.9 - Oldbury Aqueduct will be built from the top of John Robinson Lock across Oldbury Brook
MG

Oldbury Aqueduct (2.9), towpath restoration and plenty of dredging.

We are also planning to start work on the "Missing Mile" once we have received planning permission. The intention is to have a volunteer-led construction of the new canal (2.3 & 2.6), Hydes Basin, two new locks (2.2 & 2.7) and the towpath with the M5 crossing (2.5) constructed under an Invitation to Tender. A project team has been established for the volunteer-led projects and this includes John Newton, Rob Benson (Chief Engineer), Reg Gregory, Jon Deuten, Laurence Bryant and Jon Pontefract. We need to secure the funding for these projects and continue to seek donations, legacies, charitable grants and public grants to complete the project.





A

The focus for the Environment programme is the new wetlands area at Fromebridge. The scrapes have now been completed and the next phase is the water vole receptor ponds, lowering the level of a couple of short sections of embankment along the river Frome, levelling the embankment canal for the new towpath and plenty of hedge laying and tree planting. The aim is to complete the environment works in the Fromebridge area by the end of this year and have detailed designs completed for the washland to the east of the A38 which will be completed alongside the "Missing Mile" works.



B

The Community Engagement programme will take a particular focus on delivering sustainable benefits to communities living close to the canal in Stonehouse; this includes supporting the development of the Former *Ship Inn* Site for community use.

Our events programme this year will be mostly centred around Stonehouse and focus on connecting people to the natural and built heritage of the canal. Accessibility continues to be a priority for the project - working with local disabled sports and outdoor organisations. *The*



C

- A** River Frome, Whitminster (nr 1.1) MG
- B** Upper Mills Bridge - *Ship Inn* site SC
- C** Scrapes fill up at Whitminster (nr 1.1) MG
- D** A Dredging team at Ryeford MG
- E** Towpath work near Thrupp MG
- F** Jon Pontefract leading a towpath team MG

Lock Challenge will take a greater focus this year on providing opportunities for disabled people to take part in activities on the canal. The project has also partnered with Love Her Wild (Gloucestershire) to continue a programme of events for women on the canal.

The Heritage Learning Forum (Phase 1B Community Engagement team, Museum in the Park, Cotswold Canals Trust, Stroudwater Textile Trust and Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity) will continue work to embed local history in the school curriculum and develop new learning resources about the canal. Currently the project is working with Stroud High School and Whitminster Primary with more schools to be approached this year.

Volunteering will be a key focus for this year; the Phase 1B team will be strengthened by the addition of a new Volunteer Development Coordinator who will focus on assisting CCT and others to develop new opportunities and engage new volunteers. This will include the development of a 'Canal Ambassadors' programme to complement existing roles in caring for the canal.





ON THE NEXT FOUR PAGES:

Dotted lines show proposed new line of canal channel
The numbers in brackets refer to the map on page 12



CLOSE TO SAUL JUNCTION -
Walk Bridge just visible
at the top (1.1 & 1.2)

COTSWOLD CANALS PHASE 1B FROM ABOVE

Saul Junction to Whitminster Lock



WHITMINSTER LOCK (1.4)



WHITMINSTER LOCK and the River Frome Connection (1.5 & 1.6)



**COTSWOLD CANALS
PHASE 1B
FROM ABOVE**

**Lockham to
A38 Roundabout**





A38 roundabout (2.1) ▶

M5 (2.5)

'MISSING MILE' WEST - A38 to M5 SECTION



JOHN ROBINSON
LOCK (2.9) *previously
Westfield Lock*

COTSWOLD CANALS PHASE 1B FROM ABOVE

A38 Roundabout to Pike Lock



PIKE
LOCK
(3.4)

'MISSING MILE' EAST - M5 to JOHN ROBINSON LOCK SECTION



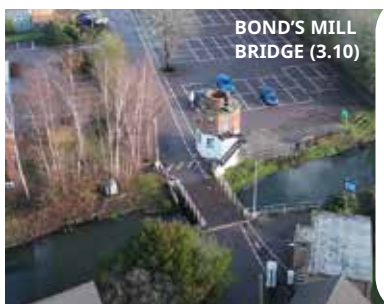
M5 (2.5)

Site of new lock (2.7) ◀

John Robinson Lock (2.9) ▶



NEWTOWN LOCK (3.8)



BOND'S MILL BRIDGE (3.10)

COTSWOLD CANALS PHASE 1B FROM ABOVE

Newtown Lock to Ocean Jubilee Bridge



BOND'S MILL EMBANKMENT (3.11)



▲
PHASE 1A

▼
PHASE 1B

OCEAN JUBILEE BRIDGE (3.12)

Many thanks to Steve Court who allows us to use his drone footage to produce these images



Search Court Above The Cut to find his channel

The Cotswold Canals

a restoration and

Map Key

Canal

- navigable
- in water
- dry or reeded
- infilled
- towpath / footpath

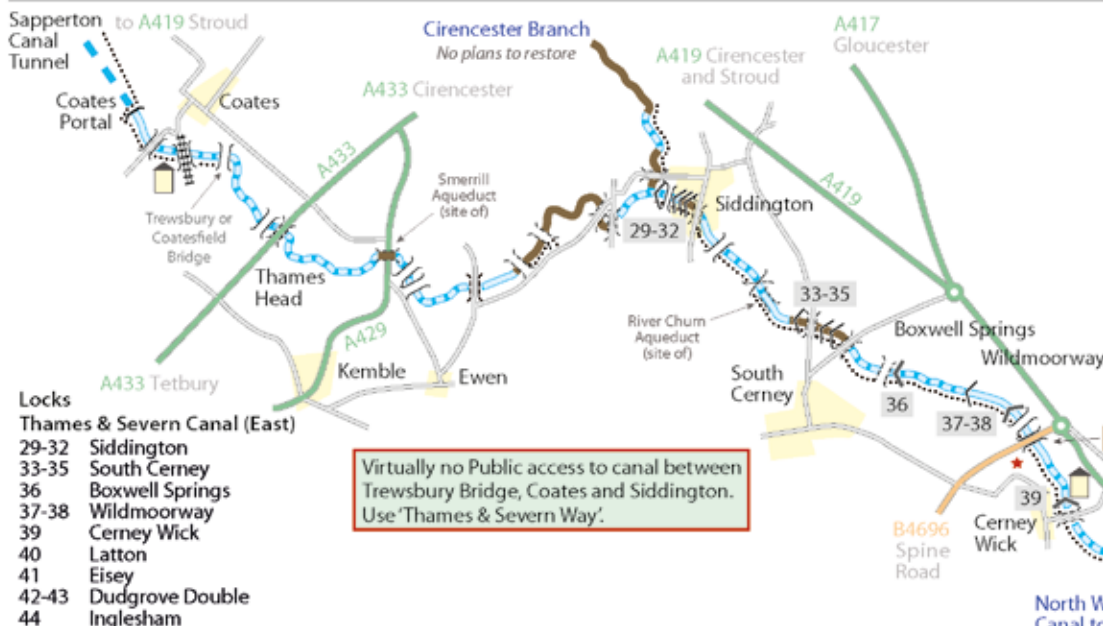
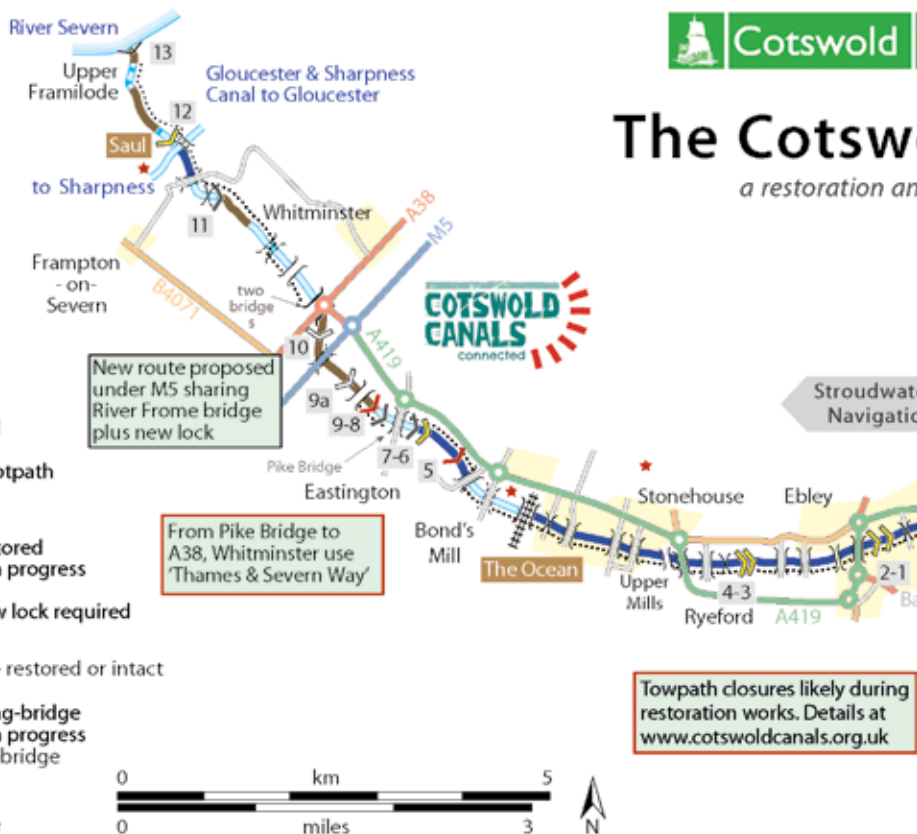
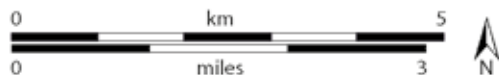
Locks

- fully restored
- structure restored
- restoration in progress
- unrestored
- missing / new lock required

Bridges

- fixed bridge - restored or intact
- lift-bridge
- restored swing-bridge
- restoration in progress
- site of swing-bridge
- obstruction

- Round House



Locks

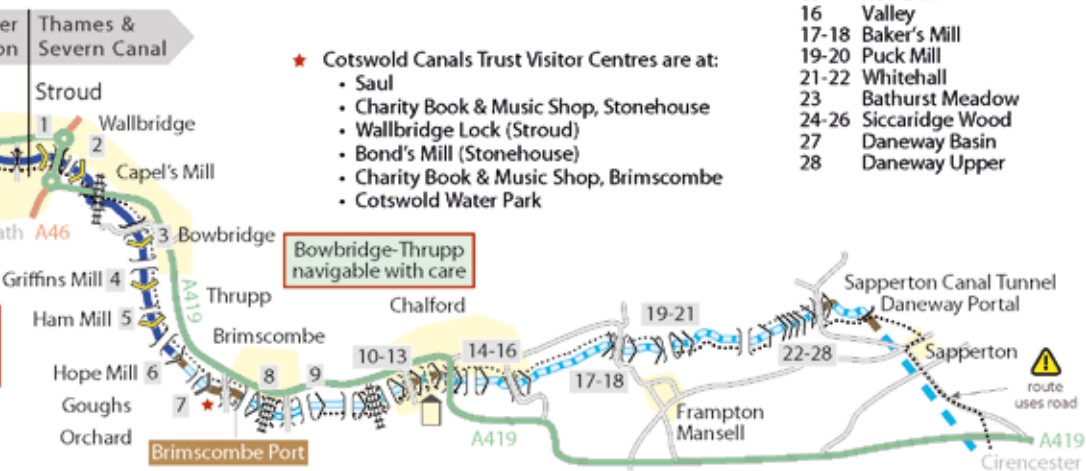
- Thames & Severn Canal (East)
- 29-32 Siddington
- 33-35 South Cerney
- 36 Boxwell Springs
- 37-38 Wildmoorway
- 39 Cerney Wick
- 40 Latton
- 41 Eisey
- 42-43 Dudgrove Double
- 44 Inglesham

Old Canals

and walking map

Locks

Stroudwater Navigation	Thames & Severn Canal (West)
1 Foundry	1 Wallbridge Lower
2 Dudbridge	2 Wallbridge Upper
3-4 Ryeford Double	3 Bowbridge
5 Newtown	4 Griffin's Mill
6 Blunder	5 Ham Mill
7 Pike	6 Hope Mill
8 Dock	7 Gough's Orchard
9 John Robinson	8 Bourne
9a New M5 Lock	9 Beale's
10 Bristol Road (re-sited)	10 St Mary's
11 Whitminster	11 Ile's Mill
12 Junction	12 Ballinger's
13 Framilode	13 Chalford Chapel
	14 Bell
	15 Red Lion
	16 Valley
	17-18 Baker's Mill
	19-20 Puck Mill
	21-22 Whitehall
	23 Bathurst Meadow
	24-26 Siccaridge Wood
	27 Daneway Basin
	28 Daneway Upper



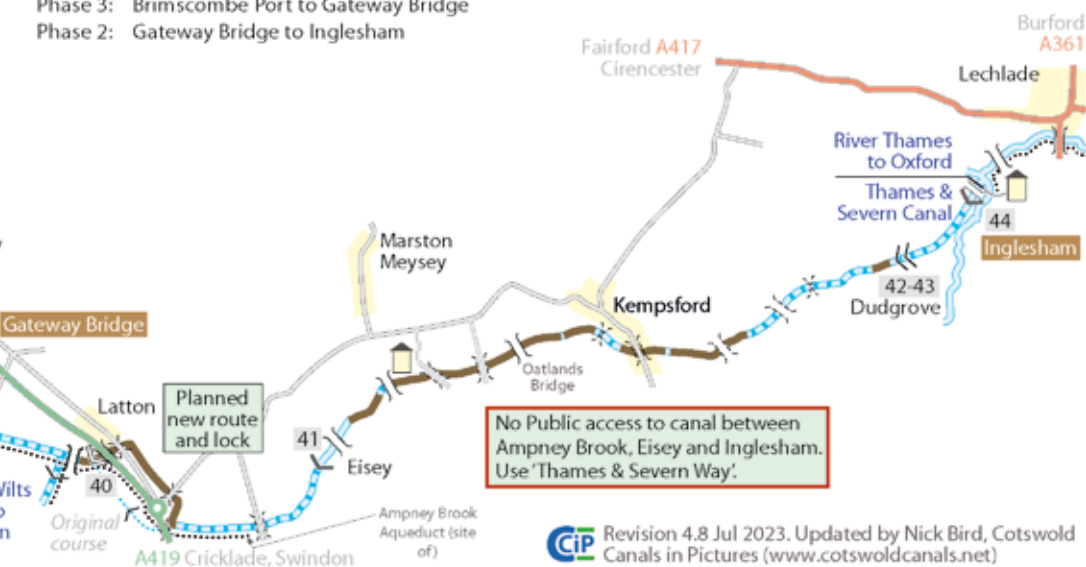
Restoration Sections

Phase 1B: Saul to The Ocean ("Cotswold Canals Connected")

Phase 1A: The Ocean to Brimscombe Port

Phase 3: Brimscombe Port to Gateway Bridge

Phase 2: Gateway Bridge to Inglesham



FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO WESTERN DEPOT'S LOGGING TEAM

by 'The Logfather' David Pagett

We set up the Western Depot Logging Operation in December 2009 – when we were all 14 years younger than we are now, of course. Because the prospect of going 'the wrong side of the grass' looms larger as each day goes by and because my Bucket List seems to be growing exponentially at the same time, I have decided that the time has come to log off, branch out and axe my chainsaw for good. My official retirement date will be 31st March to coincide with the Trading Company's financial year end.

It is fair to say I have enjoyed every single minute of my time with the Logging Team. Without exception all past and present volunteers have made a tremendous contribution to the overall success of the log sales concept, started as an experiment all those years ago. My heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of them for the part they have played in the amazing success we've experienced in raising (at the time of writing) nearly **£213,000** from log sales - quite remarkable.

We have met so many lovely people while out and about with the deliveries and I shall really miss this side of the role. Thanks to everybody

Standing L-R: Maurice Hayers, Firouz Kenzie, Mike Langford, Alan Honey, Ad Middelburg, Eric Woodford
Kneeling: The Logfather, Jason Fuller. DP



who has supported us, your generosity and contribution to our success has been overwhelming.

But - nobody's indispensable!

A WDLPA* has been drawn up already for how Western Depot Logging can continue.

Undoubtedly there will be some changes and a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to establish new systems and procedures. For updates keep an eye on the website page at www.cotswoldcanals.org and follow the "Support Us" link, then "Log Sales" and then choose "Western Depot".

Thank you all once again for your amazing support over the years for our lidd' ol' venture. It could not have achieved what it has without everybody's contribution whether as a customer or as a member of the Western Depot Logging Team.

**A WDLPA is a Western Depot Logging Plan A. These are notorious for transmogrifying into a Plan B on the day.*

From L-R: Dan Mower, Firouz Kenzie, Eric Woodford (front), Roland Di-Palma, The Logfather (front), Maurice Hayers, Mike Langford, Geoff Tennant, Peter Low (front) & Ad Middelburg. DP





ABOVE: Log area earlier in 2010 DP
BELOW: Improvements by October 2010 DP



ABOVE: Really organised in October 2022 MG
BELOW: December 13th 2023 MG




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THE 2023 GEORGIAN GROUP ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

The Georgian Group's nineteenth Architectural Awards, took place at the Royal Institute of British Architects on 14th November 2023. The Awards were generously sponsored by Savills and recognise exemplary conservation and restoration projects in the UK rewarding those who have shown the vision and commitment to restore Georgian buildings and landscapes.

The awards ceremony was presented by Dr John Goodall, chair of the judging panel and Architectural Editor at *Country Life*, with certificates handed out by the Georgian Group's President, the Duchess of Argyll.

CCT volunteers attending the event were thrilled that the Stroudwater Canal and The Cotswold Canals Trust were awarded the Green Award! This award was introduced last year to reflect the growing importance of 'green issues' in restoration - the Georgian Group's summary of our project appears on the right.

The CCT thanks the Georgian Group for recognising our work to restore both of the Cotswold Canals.

Thank you to all the volunteers who support CCT's work and ambitions.



The Green Award

Winner: The Restoration of the Stroudwater Canal

Client: Cotswold Canals Trust

In 1779 the eight-mile-long Stroudwater Canal was opened running from the river Severn to Stroud. Ten years later the Thames & Severn Canal extended it eastwards to the River Thames so connecting two great trading rivers. At the height of its success there were more than 200 canal-side mills in The Stroud Valley. Profits funded private, civic and religious buildings in the town and its surrounding villages. Though they faced stiff competition when the railways arrived in the 1840s, the canals did not close until the 20th century: the Thames & Severn Canal in 1933 and the Stroudwater Canal in 1954. Left to silt up, they became rubbish dumps and were threatened with conversion into roads.

The Cotswold Canals Trust began restoration work in the early 1970s. It now has a membership of more than 7,000 with an active volunteer force of more than 900. In restoring the historic canal and its 13 locks, the CCT has remained faithful to the design of its Georgian builders, but has also incorporated current technology. Dudbridge Lower Lock, for example includes a hydro-electric scheme that feeds more than £100,000 pounds worth of energy into the national grid. The restored towpath is used by more than 300,000 people each year and following dredging the clean water of the canal has enticed the return of rare animals and bankside flora.

The trust has collaborated with more than 100 organisations and benefited from National Lottery Heritage Fund and Stroud District Council grants.

THE KEY ROLES OF LOCK KEEPERS & LENGTHS PERSONS

by Will Foster

Text help gratefully acknowledged from Les Richards, Jon Pontefract and Andy Crane.

In the days when the Stroudwater Navigation was operating as a transport route: *“Keeping the canal running smoothly was the job of lock keepers, wharfingers and maintenance men employed by the Stroudwater Company. Lock keepers lived in Company houses at Framilode, Eastington, Ryeford and Dudbridge. They were responsible for managing water levels, looking after their own length of canal and reporting any breaches of the byelaws. Vessel crews opened and closed the locks”* (See www.stroudwaterhistory.org.uk/operation-and-maintenance/).

Today, an important group of Volunteers is performing these functions. The teams, now part of Cotswold Canals Trust, have recently changed in organisation reporting via two Coordinators who in turn send summary reports to the monthly Operations and Maintenance Meeting (OMM). This body works with Western Depot and the Stroud District Council Canal Volunteer Manager to implement necessary repairs and replacements or instigates more major projects. Working often at weekends, these two groups check their patch fortnightly and act as “canal ambassadors” answering questions and promoting the canal with members of the public.

Lengths Persons cover approximately one kilometre of canal and provide our first line



of defence in looking for unexpected changes in water levels, leaks or other canal bank breaches. They report on the towpath surface, which often degrades over the winter with wear and leaf fall, and highlight any dog poo with yellow spray paint, plus collect up small items of litter and keep the passageway free from encroaching nettles and brambles. Wearing a hi-vis tabard, their presence provides a very vital link with canal towpath users.

Lock Keepers also are crucial to good operation of the canal by reporting on the condition of their lock, operating it on a regular basis and keeping the lock area tidy of litter and highlighting dog poo. Wearing a hi-vis tabard and a life jacket, they too provide a vital link with the public and often report interesting and useful conversations. Good lock operation is vital in ensuring navigation and any build-up of silt that prevents the gates closing, or brash trapped in the bypass, can impact water levels up and downstream significantly.

Neither group is expected to interact with anyone seen to be behaving irresponsibly or criminally, though they are encouraged to report this to the authorities including Stroud District Council Enforcement Officers and the Police.

CCT is grateful for the support and dedication of these men and women who help keep our canal beautiful and operating effectively. There are some vacancies for these roles and you can find out more about what is involved on the CCT website:

www.cotswoldcanals.org/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/.



GREAT INCOME RAISED AT OUR SHOPS!

by Maggie Jones

Raising CCT Funds

Both shops, Brimscombe and Stonehouse, continue to boost the income for CCT. In the run up to Christmas there was a very good flow of customers purchasing stocking fillers. But it isn't only the shop sales that contribute, as our regular teams of volunteers are able to pick out books that online book dealers want and send them off, raising around £1000 a month. Plus, some books are sold on Ebay mostly by volunteer Mary Keene, who has raised over £900 in the past 12 months. Kind words were said about the hard work that goes on at the Book and Music Shops at the recent AGM.

Recent Events

Thanks to the volunteers who worked extra hours to support the Stonehouse Goodwill

Evening, and also to the volunteers who decorated the tree for St Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival. You can see this on the shop's facebook page, and it does indeed look lovely. Both events are a great advertisement for the Trust and the bookshops.

Christmas Social

Once again, Anna Watts organised a social at Stroud Brewery to thank our teams of Book and Music volunteers. Alan Jones came to update us on work on the canal and explain where some of our hard-earned money is spent. Diana Humphrey hosted a light-hearted quiz.

Brimscombe Shop is expanding!

We receive a great number of donations and want to display as many as possible for customers to peruse. For the last few weeks we have been adjusting our storage area so that we can use the large shipping container as our 'Brimscombe Bunker'. Inside we will be displaying books on Humour, Sport, Transport



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Tuesdays • Thursdays • Saturdays

Brimscombe Hill, Stroud, GL5 2QN
01453 703717 / 07761 902967
bookshop@cotswoldcanals.org

All DONATIONS to our Brimscombe shop please.
Large donations by appointment. Thank you

Bookshop Draw

We had been running a raffle at the shops for a few weeks and the draw took place at the Christmas Social. The results are:



1st: a lovely "cat and dog" quilted cover, (handmade by Anna), was won by Jill Playne (left)

2nd: £20 Gift Voucher, Rosie Nash

3rd: £10 Gift Voucher, Anita Morley

and Military, as well as a large array of Music Scores. Inside, the shop itself will have enlarged areas for many of our subjects, as well as an increased area for our many Children's Books, Music CDs and Vinyl LPs. The work to this end has been gradual as we have to do major moves while the shop is closed. A big thank you to the volunteers who came in for three days between Christmas and the New Year. A huge amount has been achieved towards sorting out the stockroom and container. We hope the work will be complete in the next couple of months.

Thinking of Donating?

We welcome your donations of Books, CDs, Vinyl Records, Jigsaws, Board Games, and pictures and frames. However, the Stonehouse shop has no storage area, so please bring your donations to Brimscombe Shop, booking an appointment by phone for anything more than one bag.

We hope to make 2024 another Bumper year for sales, so if you haven't visited us yet, we hope to see you soon. We think you will be pleasantly surprised, and remember ... you will be supporting the restoration and promotion of the Cotswold Canals!

WALK GUIDES WANTED

Are you interested in joining a small group of volunteer guides who led regular walks along sections of the Stroudwater Canal?

We offer walks starting from both Stroud and Stonehouse throughout the summer season and will also be offering additional walks from Fromebridge Mill (A38) to Saul Junction in 2024. Walks are generally of about 90 minutes duration and are offered to the general public including visitors to the area.

Topics covered usually include the history and operation of the canal as well as the ongoing restoration programme. We are particularly keen to emphasise the many economic, social and environmental benefits that restoration brings.

No specialist knowledge is needed. All you need is plenty of enthusiasm and the confidence to talk to a group of up to 10 people. If you have got these qualities we will offer some training to fill in the rest!

If you are interested then we would love to hear from you. Please contact mail@cotswoldcanals.org or call the CCT office on 01453 752568 for further information.

The Trow Thanks:

OUR ADVERTISERS

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OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

CCT's Photographer Mike Gallagher *MG*

CCT's online Blog *BL*

John Allan *JA*

Ken Bailey

Elena Nicolosi - *Cotswold Canals Connected*

Steve Court (YouTube - *Court Above The Cut*)

Ian Nie

David Pagett *DP*

Les Richards *LR*

PLANS COMING TOGETHER IN THE EAST

by John Allan, Eastern Thames & Severn
Development Director

Looking back at 2023

Much has been accomplished in the past year across the eastern section. As detailed in *Trow 201*, we relocated the restoration depot from Alex Farm to Driffield, and opened the new Visitor Centre & Bookshop.

Whilst the physical move of the depot was complete by early summer, considerable work has since been undertaken to re-establish the logging activity with construction of a new log drying shed and cutting, splitting and stacking 120 tons of logs. This enabled us to resume log deliveries which not only generate important income for the CCT but also supply and retain long-standing customers who depend on our winter deliveries. At the same time, the main building has been kitted out with storage racking and a light woodworking area. An internal partition wall (23 feet high at the apex) was constructed ready to recommission the large woodworking workshop. The latter is key to cutting timber for commemorative benches and parts for locks such as jackposts and penstocks.

The new Visitor Centre & Bookshop has been a great success, demonstrating the benefit of partnership (with the Cotswold Lakes Trust)

as we don't have the resources to operate the facility with only CCT volunteers. Over 5,000 visitors have been through the door since we opened in May - the centre has been open for 98 days during that period. It's fair to say that many visitors have come to get information about the Water Park and not the Cotswold Canals. Nevertheless, we signed up new members and made modest sales of CCT books and merchandise which covered our first year's operating costs. Key for 2024 is to increase "awareness" of the canals in the centre to attract more members and volunteers.

Important work has also continued outdoors on the canal. The Monday work group led by Roger Broxton has managed vegetation along the towpath from Siddington to Latton Basin, maintaining the Public Right Of Way and keeping the public aware of the canal route in the east until we can start actual restoration.

Last but not least, over at Inglesham, Jon Pontefract's Thursday evening team has completed clearance of overgrown vegetation along both banks of the ¼ mile section owned by CCT and uncovered the remains of the spill weir ready for restoration to start.

- A** Siddington Locks following a work party *BL*
- B** New log store *JA*
- C** Unrestored towpath and circular path route *JA*
- D** View from the Visitor Centre *MG*
- E** An icy Weymoor Bridge *MG*



A



B

Looking ahead into 2024

Much of the work last year was to establish capability and presence; this year we want to capitalise on this and undertake more restoration work.

First, we plan to start restoration of the towpath, to the same standard as has been adopted on Phase 1A, from the Spine Road Bridge where Phase 2 starts, downstream towards Cerney Wick.

Initially, the aim is to restore the first 500 yards to the bottom of Lake 6 to join up with the path which runs alongside the lake, to form a circular path from the Visitor Centre which is accessible by all. The Cotswold Lakes Trust plans to similarly restore the lakeside path as part of this project.



The major project in the east which readers will be familiar with, is Weymoor Bridge. Whilst the bridge was completed in 2020, the culvert on the downstream side of the bridge, which takes the adjacent field drain under the canal bed, requires complete reconstruction. This is a tricky civil engineering project which was postponed from last year, but which we hope to complete in 2024 with essential expert support from two WRG camps scheduled in August. There will be a lot of pre-work required to have the site ready and this will probably be undertaken on Saturday work parties during the spring and summer.

These two outdoor projects as well as the work at Inglesham are important steps on the journey towards restoring Phase 2. Critical to all of these, and indeed the operation of the depot and visitor centre, is a good cadre of volunteers. Please do get in touch if you can assist, and don't forget to mention volunteering opportunities to friends and family. Several recent new volunteers have joined in the east via this route.



PROJECT DREDGERSAURUS

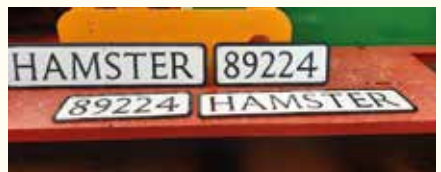


Visible progress on our new (to us) dredger *Hamster* was very apparent at the end of 2023 especially with the refitting of the operator's cabin. This permitted our chippies to install the door frames and the windows are now sealed and screwed in place. The front window put up an impressive fight, but we won! The bilges have been cleaned, yet again, and all the decking plates are in the boat. We have also installed the floor in the front cabin.

Down in the engine room, the insulated lagging has been carefully wrapped around the exhaust pipe - very trendy in stealthy black.

We had a visit from our friendly hydraulics company so a work plan was confirmed. Better still, we agreed a date in January for the work to be done. This is the last major cost and action to complete the restoration project. There are still a number of smaller jobs to do, including the electrics and fitting of the doors, some hand rails and, of course, a bit more painting.

Thanks to all that have helped us with this project over the past year. The finishing line is clearly in sight now.



Taken on as a wet day homework job was renovation of the signage. The plates are now ready for refitting but will probably be the last items to be bolted on just before we launch *Hamster* into the water.





WINTER STORMS



In the windy storms of the first week in the New Year, a large tree fell across the canal and towpath just east of Ryeford Swing Bridge.

A huge thanks to our volunteers who turned out, working hard to clear the debris from the towpath. It was soon passable with care.

The remains of the fallen tree were still blocking the canal and, as we went to press, the teams of volunteers were about to start on the clearance. The Yew tree trunk was approaching 2ft in diameter so it's a big job!

Adverse weather was causing problems as early as October due to heavy rainfall and an influx of water from several brooks between Wallbridge and Dudbridge. These areas included Lodgemore Mill and the two locks at Dudbridge on the length of canal next to Lidl among others.

CCT volunteers monitored the areas affected and the wider canal very closely to mitigate any issues and the impact of the rain. Stroud District Council worked alongside the CCT to manage the floodgates at Ebley Wharf.

The CCT volunteers work above and beyond to maintain the canals and towpaths and limit the effects of this flooding.

Thank You to everybody who responded promptly and attended the affected sites.



PREPARING AT WHITMINSTER



During 2023, a new silt disposal site and compound have been created alongside the Stroudwater Navigation at Whitminster just along from the A38 roundabout.

This will enable the canal channel in the vicinity to be dredged for the first time in many decades and prepare for traffic from the national canal network once Phase 1B is open to navigation.

Following the earlier work to install the access roadway and compound area in mid May, a start was made on the canal crossing bund which required a large amount of clay to be removed from a silt disposal area and deposited into the canal along with the necessary pipework.

Fast forward to September when work could recommence. This saw the bund completed (see photo above) and during October and November a concerted effort was made to complete all the towpath side haul roads. Due to the very wet weather, suitable drainage trenches were made to enable the ground water around the compound area to run into the canal and avoid any flooding of the site.

A work team from Western Depot cleared the canalside of excess vegetation following recommendations from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. This was on the stretch from the Stonepitts Bridge area to make easier access for the excavator and dumpers when dry dredging is undertaken.

NEWTOWN LOCK - THE LATEST by Andy P



There's a lot of silt in the bottom of Newtown Lock, probably mid thigh height. **A** You put your leg in but it's impossible to shake it all about or even get it out again. This would be our challenge for the New Year.

Meanwhile, we moved to the lower end of the lock to erect scaffolding where the stop plank channels had to be cut out. Battens were fitted as guides and a new double disc cutter was used to cut through the brick work. **B** Finally, the 2.5 m channels were in place with space above to allow the stop planks to be fitted.

With every job there's bad and good news. The first bad news was that the pump used for keeping the water level low inside the dam failed over a weekend. Water filled to the same level each side of the dam, which compromises its ability to hold water back from the pound. **C** OnSite arrived immediately and with the pump fixed, the correct water level was reinstated. Now the good news - after several hours OnSite recertified the dam and we got back to work.

More bad news. Hindsight intervened and with the threat of biblical floods it was felt in some quarters that the top stop planks needed raising. Another plank was made up, the king post wiring and tarpaulin was moved and the extra plank was fitted but the planks leaked like the proverbial sieve. Much good caulking later and good news prevailed. The leaks were tamed! **D**

The worst job came next - cutting out the cill from the inverted brick floor. The work was

tight, wet, and back-breaking with cutting and lifting rubbish out one bucket at a time. It never seemed to end. The story of the three pumps we needed can be read online in the Blog from 7th January. A king post socket was also fitted. The chippies then made up and assembled a work of art for the shuttering. This allowed us to mix concrete in two mixers and with an army of bucket lowerers the cill was cast and smoothed off. Another back-breaker.

So after two months, the stop planks were cut to size by the logging team and an army of eight helped lower them into place. The water level here is the deepest we have seen at over 2.3 m and lowering the planks was a challenge. We had to buy a new 2.6m king post for the nine planks we had to fit. A weighted tarpaulin was put in place and all scaffolding was removed. The main pump is now off and the dam allowed to flood up and will be removed in the new year.

It is important to thank all the teams involved with getting this far: all our Construction Team One supported by Team Two who kept us supplied with endless requests for material, fuel and all sorts of things; Will and Reg at the depot, who bought and supplied more things; the array of new recruits who we covered in muck and wore them out; Jon P and John B for advice when required. Thanks also to the chippies and engineers who repeatedly came out to fix recalcitrant pumps and generators.

We then had a deserved break and took the chance to build ourselves up ready for all that silt in the main chamber!

NEWTOWN LOCK THROUGH TIME

by Hugh Conway-Jones



Newtown Lock, pictured with its new gates over 30 years ago, was the first restored lock to pass a boat. Since then it and nearby Blunder Lock have served as fine examples of what enthusiastic volunteers can achieve. While a new generation of volunteers are preparing the lock for the next 30 years, it is appropriate to recount a few stories from its past.

When the lock was built in 1778, the canal captured a local spring that provided water for cattle, and the Stroudwater Company was obliged to provide compensation. It seems that this was achieved by installing a pipe from the top paddle gear culvert of the lock to a pond in the nearby field, as remains of the pipe and three brick manholes were found by the restoration volunteers.

For many years the lock was known as Top Lock of Five in recognition of its position in the flight of five locks that raised the canal up the hill past the village of Eastington. The current name derives from the nearby settlement of Newtown which developed in the early nineteenth century on a triangle of land between the canal and the neighbouring turnpike road. This triangle had been retained by the Company as a source of gravel but, in 1801, they sold it to their head carpenter William Beard who built the first house on it and lived there in his retirement.

During the working days of the canal, the lock often featured in the Committee's minutes in connection with offences by boatmen who were trying to save time. Many were fined for misusing paddles (and thus wasting water), for strapping to a gate (to help slow down) or for hitting the bottom gates (due to approaching too fast). One bargeman left top and bottom paddles open overnight and managed to lower the long upper pound about 15 inches. Those who were caught were required to pay a small fine or risk being taken to court to face a much bigger penalty.

At this lock there were also several reports of badly moored boats which held up traffic. After one captain took over an hour to move his barge when ordered, he was taken to court and had to pay a fine and costs equivalent to two weeks pay. It seems likely that he had overstayed a visit to the nearby *New Inn* which had an entrance on the canal-side to welcome thirsty boatmen.

Another topic mentioned in the Committee's minutes is the transfer of canal water across the field to the big house now known as Eastington Park. In 1870, the Committee agreed that Thomas Marling could install a two-inch pipe for a rent of £2 per year. When the restoration volunteers found such a pipe leading from a manhole in the field, they were told that it had supplied a fountain. The agreement with Marling also included permission for a pipe from the canal to supply water to the entrance lodge adjoining Newtown Roving Bridge.

Sometime after navigation was officially closed in 1954, the old wooden gates were replaced by a concrete dam to maintain the water levels suitable for local anglers. Then in 1978 the forerunner of the Cotswold Canals Trust started to organise working parties here and at Blunder Lock, both close to the main road, to help promote the aim of full restoration. After much hard work, the first boat passed through in October 1991.

When the present work has been completed, the lock will be ready for use by leisure boaters who will enjoy the challenge of working up the five locks, and perhaps one day there will be a new *New Inn* to provide rewarding refreshment.

The Red Buttons

Cotswold Canals Connected Phase 1B Team (CCC) wrapped up 2023 with two wonderful, festive performances of *The Red Buttons*, created and performed by Playcircle in partnership with Stroudwater Textile Trust.

The Red Buttons is a whimsical, musical story based on the Stroudwater Navigation including significant landmarks along the canal and giving an insight to the thriving cloth and coal industries. We hope everyone who attended either the Stonehouse or Stroud performance enjoyed it just as much as we did - we hope to share this incredible performance with even more of you in 2024!



Ghost Hunters

In October, CCC held another well attended event, *Ghost Hunters*. This free event encouraged people to walk along the canal towpath in Stroud and meet ghosts who told scary anecdotes about the canal!



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported CCC over the past year and attended our long list of unique events. We are excited for what 2024 will bring (hopefully, approval of the planning application for the 'Missing Mile').

WHO YOU GONNA CALL? *GHOST HUNTERS!*

by Mike Smith

Boating at Hilly Orchard

Ghost Hunters was a *Cotswold Canals Connected* event organised by Sophie Wakefield that took place on Sunday, 29th October, 2023. The idea was to recreate events that had taken place on and alongside the Stroudwater Navigation in the past and a "Ghost Hunters Needed!" appeal for volunteers was made in Trow 202.

John Stockbridge grew up in Dudbridge in the 1930s and remembers how the canal was a playground for the local children. They would hide on Hilly Orchard Bridge and throw apples at boats passing below. This was one of the scenes that would be recreated for the event and Malcolm Eynon and myself volunteered to crew trip boat *Endeavour* for the event. We did think apples thrown with gusto might hurt if they actually hit us so we insisted something softer than apples were thrown. We agreed satsumas would be acceptable. Historical accuracy is all very well, but not if it is likely to hurt.

Visitors joined the event at Wallbridge and walked to Ebley Mill, encountering seven historical scenes as they walked. Sophie provided us with period costumes so that we looked like 1930s boatmen. We positioned *Endeavour* to the east of Hilly Orchard Bridge and waited for the first party of walkers.

As the walkers approached Hilly Orchard, we moved the boat towards the bridge and, when we were close enough, Sophie's children and their friends threw satsumas at us. This was repeated several times throughout the day.



The number of children on the bridge seemed to increase with each trip, so we think they probably enjoyed it a little too much.

I had prepared something to shout at the children as we approached the bridge:

*'Ere you young varmint.
Stop chuckin' them apples at we.
I know 'oo you be, John Stockbridge
I'll ave 'e when I gets back from Brumajum*

Turning to the walkers on the towpath I shouted:

*And you gongoozlers can stop gawpin'.
I'm minded to chuck these apples at thee.*

Then we passed under the bridge and reversed the boat back ready for the next party of visitors.

Our visitors seemed to enjoy it. Malcolm and I had a good day and got through it unscathed. The photograph, taken by Ian Nie at Ebley Wharf, shows me (left) and Malcolm.

BOAT TRIPS & CHARTERS IN 2024

Look out for announcements about CCT's trip boat plans for 2024 online at

www.cotswoldcanals.org

THE COTSWOLD CANALS by Trevor Jones, Stroud

Its history is as fragmented as any other, a canal connecting two coasts from west to east, running a course through historic Cotswold landscapes, transporting goods before Brunel built his railway and the branch line to Swindon and London.

Like any demised entity, the canals saw their days end, and what was left was overgrown water beds, damaged walls, and mile after mile of dilapidation and decay, becoming an eyesore for all who passed by and saw the mess that was left.

Barges no more ran their daily course along the west-east trajectory of a trade-driven hustle and bustle commercial land, their hard working men were left dry in the sand to find work elsewhere wherever they could, poor souls.

But many years later came a renewed spirit, a desire for a resurrection of those waterways so historic, so along came a Trust to give new life to those waterways of yesteryear almost long forgotten.

Then more Trusts came along, contributing to parts of the plan, coming together to create joined-up-thinking that became joined-up-doing, and little by little the canals have become one, people working together for the sake of renewed life.

300 CLUB

The Cotswold Canals Trust '300 Club' is a quarterly lottery held every January, April, July and October. Players (over 18 only) can join at any time during the year for an annual subscription of £15 per stake. A player may hold up to four stakes.

The 300 Club Lottery is a fundraising activity for CCT and all money raised goes towards supporting the Charity's mission. Full details on how to join can be found at:

www.cotswoldcanals.org

- [support-us](#)
- [three-hundred-club-lottery](#)

or email fundraising@cotswoldcanals.org

The October 2023 draw was made at Bell House.

1st Prize - Anonymous - £720

2nd Prize - Anonymous £360

3rd Prize – Neil Cathie, Stroud has donated his winnings back to the Trust.

The January 2024 draw was made by Ros Bull, Accounts Administration Assistant on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

1st Prize Anonymous - £720

2nd Prize Mr J Kennedy, N. Woodchester - £360

3rd Prize Anonymous - £120

NEW POSTAGE & PACKING RATES

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Books and gifts can be purchased online at www.cotswoldcanals.org - click the Online Shop button. Or call the Wallbridge Office (01453 752568) where your order and payment can be taken over the phone. Call in to one of our Visitor Centres at Wallbridge, Saul (or South Cerney from Easter - limited stock) or Charity Book & Music Shops (Stonehouse or Brimscombe) to save on postage! *Find opening times online*

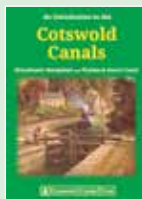
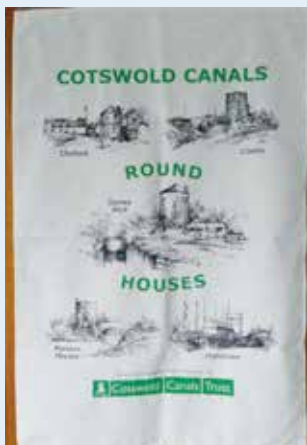
TEA TOWEL

COTSWOLD CANALS ROUND HOUSES

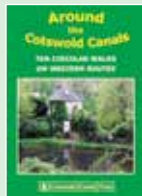
Featuring the five buildings along the Thames & Severn Canal drawn by Peter Westley

100% cotton
29" x 19.5"
(75 x 59 cm)

£6.00

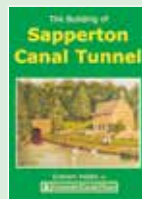
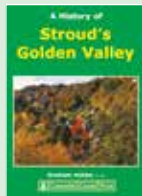
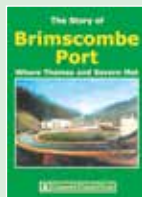


UPDATED FOR 2024



10 CIRCULAR WALKS ON WESTERN ROUTES

CCT BOOKLETS
£5.50 each



10 CIRCULAR WALKS ON EASTERN ROUTES

LOTS MORE ONLINE

GREETINGS CARDS

10 Cards left blank for your message

2 each of 5 designs
Saul • Stonehouse • Ebley • Coates • Inglesham

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Packs with 10 cards of one design available too



JIGSAWS

Our *Stroudwater* jigsaw sold out in 2023

Watch out for a new *Thames & Severn* jigsaw early in the Spring

We also have plans for a second *Stroudwater* jigsaw with a new design later in the year

CCT EMBROIDERED CLOTHING



POLO SHIRT £18



RUGBY SHIRT £30



ZIP UP HOODIE £30



FLEECE £30



Administrators: Lisa Mant • Gemma Barton-Foreman • Sasha Pike • Ros Bull

REGISTERED CHARITY No 269721

Reg Co. in England: The Cotswold Canals Trust No. 1207787 Registered Office: Bell House, Wallbridge, Stroud, GL5 3JS

To promote for the benefit of the community, the re-opening of the Cotswold Canals

To promote the restoration of the two waterways to give a balance between the needs of navigation, development, recreation, heritage, landscape conservation, wildlife and natural habitats

AIMS

To promote the use of all the towpath as *The Thames & Severn Way*

To achieve restoration of the Cotswold Canals as a navigable route from Saul Junction to the River Thames

VICE PRESIDENTS

Siobhan Baillie MP • Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP • Chris Coburn MBE
Dr David Drew • Dr David Fletcher CBE
The Lord Henry of Richmond Hill CBE • Professor Mark Horton

The Cotswold Canals Trust is a member of the Cotswold Canals Partnership and a partner in Cotswold Canals Connected

TRUSTEE DIRECTORS

AS AT 5 JAN 2024

Joint Interim Chairman & Project Director
JOHN NEWTON
john.newton@cotswoldcanals.org

Joint Interim Chairman & Boat Moorings & Piling Manager
ALAN JONES
alan.jones@cotswoldcanals.org

Honorary Treasurer
MATTHEW LEE *
matt.lee@cotswoldcanals.org

Health & Safety Director
DOUGLAS LOOMAN
douglas.looman@cotswoldcanals.org

Environment Director
NICK ROWSON
nick.rowson@cotswoldcanals.org

Development Director Eastern Thames & Severn
JOHN ALLAN
john.allan@cotswoldcanals.org

Trustee Director
KEN BURGIN
ken.burgin@cotswoldcanals.org

Operations Director
REG GREGORY
reg.gregory@cotswoldcanals.org

Legal & Governance Director
DAVID HIGGS
david.higgs@cotswoldcanals.org

Communications Director
AIMEE-LOUISE MALCOLM *
aimee.malcolm@cotswoldcanals.org

Procurement Director
STEVE PICKOVER
steve.pickover@cotswoldcanals.org

* TRADING COMPANY DIRECTOR

CONTACTS

Inglesham, Saul, Ebley Trip Boat Charters
01453 752568
mail@cotswoldcanals.org

Boat Trips Saul Ops Manager
ROB BURGON *
persy@live.co.uk

Boat Trips Central Ops Manager
IAN NIE *
ian.nie@cotswoldcanals.org

Saul Visitor Centre Managers
RICHARD & POLLY MILLIN *
01452 740132
richard.millin@cotswoldcanals.org
polly.millin@cotswoldcanals.org

Wallbridge Visitor Centre Manager
CHRISTINE MAULER *
01453 752568
christine.mauler@cotswoldcanals.org

Charity Book & Music Shop Manager
MIKE RICHTER * 01453 703717

General Manager/Company Secretary
LISA MANT 01453 752568
mail@cotswoldcanals.org

Membership / Change of Address
SASHA PIKE 01453 752568
membership@cotswoldcanals.org

Communications & Marketing Officer
OLIVIA NAIRN 01453 752568
olivia.nairn@cotswoldcanals.org

Photographer MIKE GALLAGHER
gallagher_mick@hotmail.com

Connect Administration Website: www.teamconnect.org connect.webmasters@cotswoldcanals.org

VISITOR CENTRES & BOOKSHOPS

SAUL JUNCTION GL2 7LA 01452 740132

WALLBRIDGE LOCK, Stroud, GL5 3JS 01453 752568

BOND'S MILL, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RF (for opening Hours - check website)

COTSWOLD WATER PARK, South Cerney, GL7 5FP 01453 752568 (reopens Easter - carries a limited range of sales items)

Charity Book & Music Shop BRIMSCOMBE Corner, GL5 2QN 01453 703717 / 07761 902967

Charity Book & Music Shop, 2-6 Queen's Road STONEHOUSE, GL10 2QA

Please check latest opening times at www.cotswoldcanals.org

LOG SALES

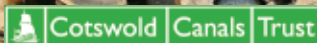
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(no collection facility)
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www.cotswoldcanals.org/support-us/log-sales/



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