

Lapal Link

Newsletter of the
Lapal Canal Trust

Winter/Spring
2020



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Advisory Board to Oversee and Advise the Lapal Trust Committee.

John Hudson OBE.	Chair of C&RT West Midlands Advisory Board Formerly High Sheriff of West Midlands and for 20 years Chairman of Birmingham Airport.
Peter Mathews CMG.	Past Chair of West Midlands Waterways Partnership.
John Cloughton.	Retired Chief Master of King Edwards School.
Steve McCabe.	MP for Selly Oak.
Laura Shoaf.	Managing Director Transport West Midlands.
David Cox OBE.	Bike West Midlands Network.
Traci Dix-Williams.	CEO Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust.
Beverley Nielsen.	Director of Institute for Design & Economic Acceleration (IDEA), Birmingham City University.
Anthea McIntyre.	MEP for the West Midlands.
Tristan Chatfield.	Councillor for Weoley and Selly Oak Ward.
Nicholas Crombie.	Trustee Birmingham & Black Country Wild Life Trust.

Lapal Canal Trust Committee Members

President

Dr Peter Best

Chair

Dr Andrew Hardie

CEO

Hugh Humphreys OBE

Treasurer, Membership

**and Company secretary
Dr Tony Whateley**

Technical Officer

Peter Fisher

Leasowes Liaison

Roy Burgess (Halesowen Abbey Trust)

Fundraising Manager

Simon Dearn

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Denis Pike (WB&DCS)

Terry Stanton

John Hemingway (WB&DCS)

John Worwood (Calthorpe Res Soc.)

Dave Pearson (IWA/ BCNS)

David Struckett (IWA)

Michael Payne (IWA)

Malcolm Bates

Arthur Moppett

Richard Chivers

Co-Chairs of Birmingham University Conservation Volunteers

Advisors

Environmental & Ecology

Mary Green WB&DCS

Legal

Toni Weston Partner Gowling WLG

Financial

Laurence Parkes Parkes & Co

Biographies of our committee can be found on our web site www.lapal.org

Founded in 1990 for the conservation and restoration of the Dudley No. 2 Canal from Hawne Basin, Halesowen to Selly Oak. The Lapal Canal Trust is a registered charity (no 1013845) and a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 2721675). Registered Office: 18 St Georges Close, Birmingham B15 3TP.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lapal Canal Trust held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at TouchBase Pears 750 Bristol Rd, Birmingham B29 6NA

Chair's report



Dr Andrew Hardie reported that since taking on the role of Chair at the 2018 AGM, he had accompanied Hugh on several meetings with the developers of the Sainsbury's site; discussed problems and ways of dealing with them with Simon over numerous coffees; was shown the old route of the canal from Woodgate Valley Country Park through to The Leasowes by Councillor John Lines; met Roy Burgess at the Walled Garden at The Leasowes to talk through the potential problems with restoration at the Halesowen end; met Councillor Chatfield to discuss

matters at the Selly Oak end; listened to the interesting comments from many committee members at the monthly meetings. He noted just how much is done behind the scenes, from Peter Fisher's scrub bashing and technical expertise, to Arthur's picture taking and the input from IWA and the Halesowen groups. There is such a wealth of experience on the Committee, and this will be needed as the restoration project moves on.

The year has gathered pace with meetings with Planners at both Birmingham and Dudley Councils, to meetings with Halesowen Councillors about the Sandvik site, attending a Public meeting with James Morris MP about the impending threat to the Halesowen Green Belt. The assembled crowd were told that the Lapal Canal Trust was behind them as our restored canal needs to proceed through this land. There was also a re-launch of the Restoration Project with the press at the Leasowes organised by Councillor Lines. It would be fair to say that we had no idea how much time would be involved a year ago.

However, the whole project is fascinating. Another aspect which has been pursued is to involve LCT with other groups, such as cycling, walking, wildlife and local history, whose co-operation would help us to achieve the restoration. The Dudley No.2 Canal arose in association with Selly Oak and Halesowen's Industrial past, and a restored towpath could be used by cyclists and walkers as well as providing a corridor for wildlife, and a path to sites of historical interest. It would also add to the protection of properties along the route both by the natural barrier of the canal itself, as well as its usage and upgrading, rather than as a disused area attracting fly tipping and antisocial behaviour.

So, to conclude, the next year will be an exciting one, with much work going on to protect the line of the canal as well as progressing towards getting the Selly Oak end into water. Thank you all for your interest.

Acceptance of the Chair's report was proposed by Colin Bourne, seconded by Peter Fisher and agreed unanimously.

Treasurer's report



The Treasurer reported that subscriptions for the year were stable. There were not many new members, but some ten-year memberships were taken out. Gift aid of about £15,000 on the 2018 donations had been received early in 2019. The majority of expenditure was on fundraising and feasibility studies/surveys.

Colin Bourne made the point that it was important that Grant Giving bodies and other outsiders should see that our accounts were submitted promptly to Companies House and the Charity Commissioners. The

Treasurer was pleased to be able to respond that the 2018 Accounts had been prepared, examined, approved and submitted by Jan, 8, 2019.

Lawrence Parkes was thanked for carrying out the Independent Examination.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Colin Bourne, seconded by John Hemingway and agreed unanimously.

Election of Officers

The President, Dr Peter Best, announced that all the Officers and Committee members have agreed to put themselves forward for their existing roles

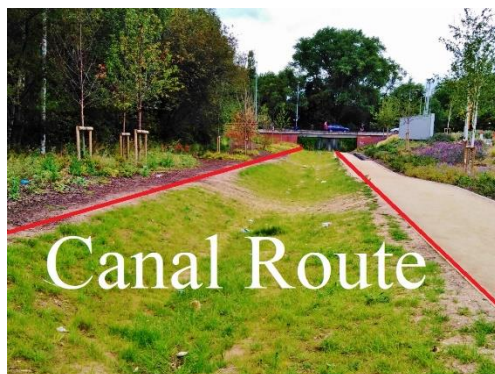
The election of officers and committee members as listed in the Agenda (with the addition of the Birmingham University representatives), was proposed by Richard Alford seconded by Ivor Caplan and agreed unanimously.

Open Forum

The CEO, Hugh Humphreys, summarised recent progress in 2019 with a PowerPoint presentation. All the information is included in this Newsletter. We are very pleased with the progress and the very encouraging community support and interest.



View from Worcester Birmingham Canal



Looking towards Harborne Lane Bridge

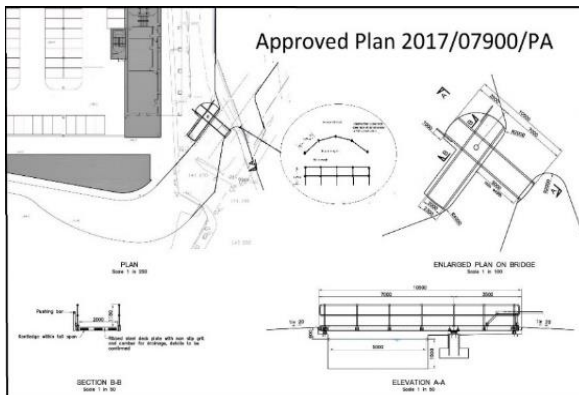
Progress with the work

1. Planning Applications

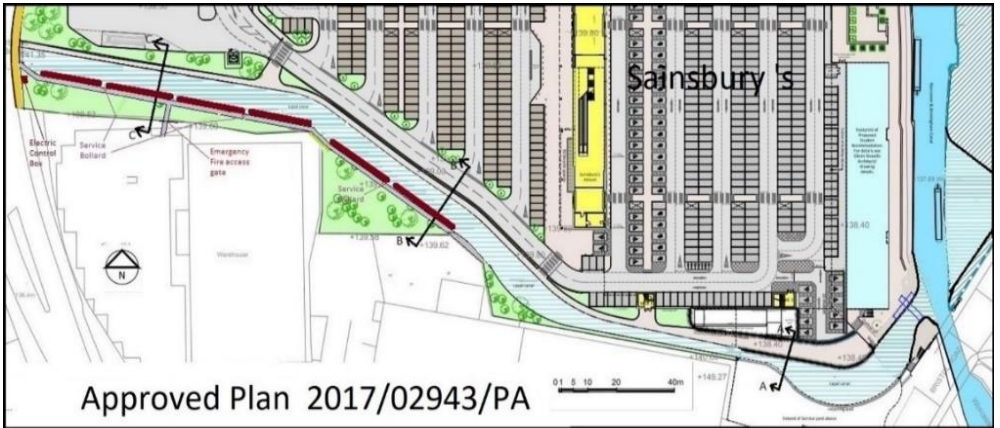
On November the 15th we received the final planning approval from Birmingham City Council. This was for the winding hole. Approval was delayed while the position of the turning area to allow safe entry and exit to the restored canal was agreed. We thank Canal & River Trust and the local canal societies and individuals who raised objections to the original plan.



We are also grateful to the developers Landsec for their help and a contribution of £48k for the removal of excess soil. We would like to make an early start on this work outside the terms of the Section 106 Agreement and this is being agreed with the new owners M & G Real Estate. It made us smile to find out that the land has 3 owners, in addition to M&G Real Estate who own the top layer of subsoil and everything above, we need permission from



the Canal & River Trust who retain the freehold and with Sainsbury's who is the superior leaseholder. We already have planning permission for the Main Route and the Swing Bridge. Tony our Treasurer and Secretary commented that on pre 1830 maps he was very interested to see that the land was owned by a Mrs Whateley, a distant cousin of his.



The new Selly Oak Shopping Centre opened in November 2018 showing the canal extension and swing bridge.

2. Pinch points

With the support NFU Mutual the Battery Retail Park owner we have made good progress in arranging for the additional land needed to remove the two pinch points. Homebase have kindly agreed to give up a corner of the land and the Shop owners using the Goods Yard have agreed to give up a corner of the goods yard.

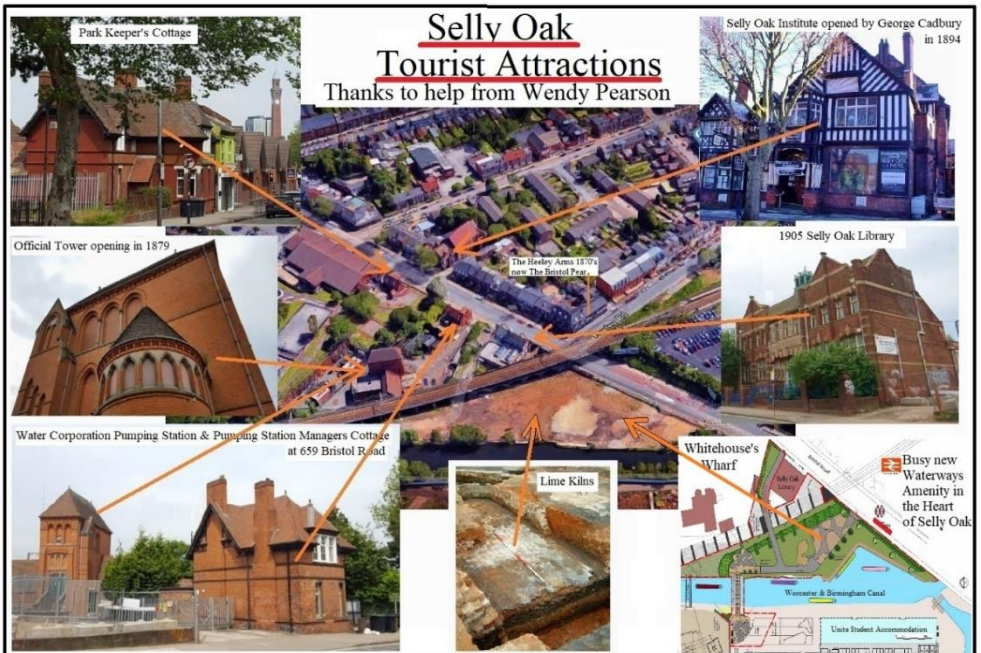


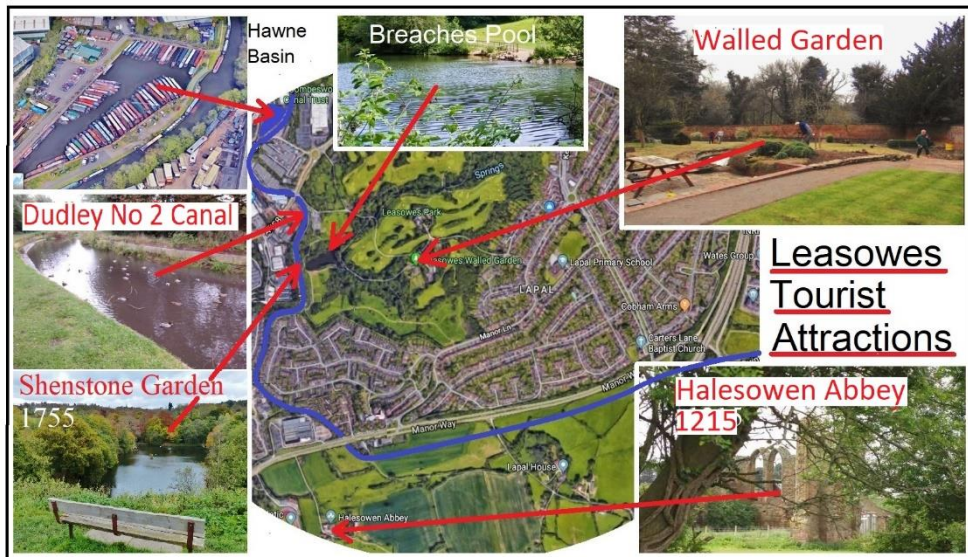
- Carpentright
- Poundland
- Shoezone
- T K Max
- Sports Direct
- Iceland-Food Warehouse
- Pets at Home



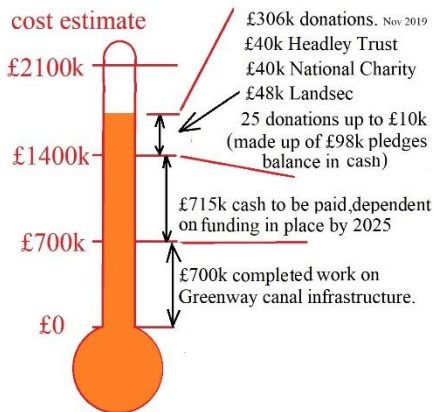
3. Tourist Features by the Canal

One of the many advantages of Canal restoration which we like to highlight is the opportunity to attract tourists and to create jobs. In the last newsletter we featured Weoley Castle. In conjunction with Wendy Pearson we now feature Selly Oak and to complete the list, working with the Leasowes we have a similar montage of tourist features.





4. Fundraising



We would like to thank the following for their generous contribution to this project - Headley Trust, Careys, GJW Turner Trust, Henry James Sayer Charity, Worcester Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society, Inland Waterways Association, Heritage Lottery Fund and members of the Lapal Canal Trust, Jabbs Trust, Rowland Trust, Grimmit Trust, Patrick Trust, Gowling WLG, Geoff Hill Trust, Collins /Sayer Trust, Birmingham Common Good Trust, Richardson Foundation, Cook & Wolstenholme Charitable Trust, P G Sharpe, Keith & Joan Mindelson, Bernard Piggott. Dumbreck Charity, Edward Cadbury Charitable

Trust, Langdale Trust, CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust, donation in memory of Dr Ian Langford, and subscribers of canal magazines.

The trust is actively looking for more financial support. Contact details for donations can be found at the back of this Newsletter and on the web site: www.lapal.org or on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust

smile.amazon.co.uk

The Trust is a Charity recognised by Amazon Smile so please when ordering from Amazon use Amazon

Smile with the Lapal Canal Trust as your nominated charity. The trust will receive 0.5%

5. Crossing Manor Way

In 1999 Gerard Pakes Consultants were commissioned by the Lapal Canal Trust to investigate the restoration of the Dudley No 2 Canal. The report included a solution for crossing Manor Way, the original route would be difficult as the road had been lowered to canal water level. A culvert and raising the road would be feasible but with safety and cost issues. The Pakes report also suggested a bridge crossing. The crossing options were reviewed by Atkins Consultants in 2007 who recommended a bridge crossing.

Public consultation was arranged by Sandvik in July for their imaginative plan to redevelop the site with a smaller office building and housing. The planning application, ref P19/1413, for the office building was submitted in September. The proposed redevelopment of the Sandvik site makes a bridge crossing a possibility. We have suggested that a provision for a future route should be included for the planned 15m wide separation strip between the office and the housing development. The cost of the route from the from Fordrove to the Black Horse pub including the bridge was estimated at £7.8m – in 2007!



We had a meeting staff of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council about protecting the revised Atkins Route. We have been requested to have discussions in order to seek approval from the Highways Authority (local for Manor Way and National for the Motorway) and Historic England who have an interest. Also, to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment

Engaging with the community

The Lopal Canal Trust Committee warmly encourages everyone interested to participate in planned events, share their views, and help us to decide on development of the restoration of this important historic Birmingham Canal.

6. Bartley Green Library - Open Day

Thanks to Deputy Mayor John Lines for the invitation to display at the Bartley Green Library open day, lots of visitors and interest. Very nice resource. I am sure that you did not know that Jane Bunford the tallest woman in the world lived in a cottage near the library – you learn something new every day!



Bartley Green's
Guinness World
Record Breaker
JANE BUNFORD
was 2.41m tall
(7ft 11inches)
with hair over 8ft
long
(1896 to 1922)

7. Working with Sense

We are privileged to have the opportunity of providing boat trips for SENSE and their team of dedicated carers led by Jon Fearn and Helen Ogbourn. For most it's their first time to enjoy a canal boat trip. For the larger charities we are approaching for support we have a significant bonus of being able to demonstrate that we are working with the community. We have included a report on the most recent trips, pictures were shown in our AGM presentation and are featured on our Facebook page and Web site with the most recent report reaching over 12,000 viewers.

April A nice spring day for our monthly SENSE trip with goslings and ducklings on the canal on the way to the Cube and Brindley Place, an opportunity to listen to music at the Convention Centre and to participate with the band.



June Managed to find a few hours without rain for our

trip, ducklings on our last trip almost ready to fly. Chance to top up with water while our crew walked around Brindley place and visited Legoland.





July With fine July weather we all enjoyed our monthly trip. This time visiting Sherborne Wharf, feeding the geese and seeing very good progress by Interserve on the canal side in Selly Oak.



September Beautiful day to restart our Sense trips after the August break, tea and biscuits and good company. This time the group were delighted with the remodelling of the new Centenary Square and a chance to visit the Museum and Art Gallery.



October Another adventure for people with disabilities and their brilliant carers. Thanks to Jon for arranging and for cups of tea and biscuits to keep us warm. Last trip sunshine, what a contrast to the rain today. Because of the rain we only managed to visit the Convention Centre, Jon says the Art Gallery is very good and a visit is recommended.



November Despite the rather gloomy weather we had a very good day out for people with disabilities and their carers from Sense. A chance to enjoy the autumn colours. For the first time a visit to the BBC Visitors Centre at the Mailbox to see Dr Who props and Peaky Blinders. This was followed by a visit to the top of the Cube to see the views.





8. Birmingham Crisis Centre.



Very pleased that Dr Andrew Hardie our Chair and also Director of the Birmingham Crisis Centre arranged for the Trust to provide a

canal boating experience to mothers and their children being provided with refuge by the Crisis Centre. A new experience enjoyed by all with two trips around Birmingham Canals.



9. Weoley and Selly Oak Festivals

These were held on the 19th of June and 19th of July both well attended with a lot of interest shown.



10. Presenting to Local Societies

As always, the Lapal Canal Trust is very pleased to have the opportunity to make a presentation about the history and restoration progress on the Dudley No 2 Canal. Since the last Newsletter we have made reports to the Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society, Bournville Society and Birmingham Beekeepers Association. The Beekeepers have been helpful in allowing us to include their beehives in the Environment sections of our planning applications.



11.Meeting Edgbaston Residents



Very pleased to be invited by the Calthorpe Residents' Society to a presentation by Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, on the "Role of a Global University". Lots of interest in our project, an opportunity to explain and thank Sir David for the valuable contribution made by students of Birmingham University. Projects were completed by Marketing Management and Civil Engineering Students. Last year also excellent support by the University Conservation Volunteers who together with Archeology students investigated the lift bridge foundations. Busy also with litter picking and delivery of leaflets. Particular help from Lawrence who has greatly improved our Facebook reach from between 700 to 1500, by 10 times with a peak of 37,000. Lawrence continues to help despite working in Canada for one year.



12.Bumble Hole Festival



In September there was the 2-day Black Country Boating Festival near the Bumble Hole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, Netherton. This is at the western end of the Dudley No 2 Canal. If you have not been you should try to visit next year; music, food and lots of interesting stalls.

Every year our partners the 'Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society, attend with their shop, also the Coombeswood Canal Trust stand with information about the Dudley No 2 Canal restoration and the Bradley Canal Locks restoration another marvelous Black Country canal restoration project.



13. Working with the Canal & River Trust.

The Lapal Canal Trust is interested in involving more people with our project. We are very lucky to have the chance to work with Bashir Ahmed MBE, Engagement Manager for the Canal and River Trust. Bashir has a wide range of contacts and recently arranged for the Lapal Canal Trust to take groups of people on a canal boat trips around Edgbaston and the Icknield Port Loop. A chance for us to talk



about our restoration project and to meet new people. We were introduced to staff from Unity FM, Aspect Care, Aspire Living, Aspect Training Solutions, Green Lane Masjid & Community Centre, and the Green Lane Masjid Scout group.



We also arranged with Councillor Waseem Zaffar MBE, Cabinet Member responsible for Transport and the Environment, for Councillors, members of the cabinet and employees of the West Midlands Transport Authority to appreciate the canals and to visit the new Icknield Port Loop Development.



14. Visit to Parliament



The Lapal Canal Trust was invited to attend the Houses of Parliament for the Inland Waterway Association Parliamentarian of the Year Awards. We were represented by our Chair Dr Andrew Hardie, Fundraising Manager Simon Dearn, alongside Lawrence Weston and Megan Trustler members of our committee and current and future co-chairs of the Birmingham University Conservation Volunteers.



Lawrence commented: "We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon listening to talks from Lord German and Ros Kerslake, Head of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It was also great to hear from Mike Palmer, Chair of the Waterway Recovery Group, of so many success stories of canal restoration around the country. We look forward to supporting the Dudley No.2 canal ongoing restoration efforts."

Unfortunately, Lawrence's Co-Chair Kathy D'Apice could not attend – she was otherwise engaged, receiving a Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

15. Walk the line

Every mid-September volunteers and local residents enjoy a day out walking the route of the to be restored canal. This year we had beautiful weather for our annual walk-the-line from Selly Oak to the Leasowes. Big thanks



Tea and Cakes

to all the walkers, great to see new and old faces. Special thanks to Peter Best and Roy Burgess for leading the walk and of course to Jill and Helen for tea and cakes at journey's end. Everyone had a wonderful day.



Short Rest

Volunteer work

16. Litter picking

Lapal Canal Trust volunteers had one of our regular litter picking exercises along the length of the 'to be restored' canal across the Selly Oak Shopping Centre. We were delighted to be joined by Andy Street (Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority) and Andy's Street Clean team. Many hands made light work and the canal area was quickly in pristine condition. We were also very pleased in the interest and support from local residents visiting the shopping centre. A great day!



17. Clearing at the Leasowes.



Winter is a time for clearing the summer growth and Peter Fisher is busy with his team of volunteers helping to clear the bramble and saplings that have grown alongside and in the bed of the canal. In November the team was busy at the Leasowes clearing a 30m length of the canal. We thank the wardens for their help. Peter is arranging a work party every month.

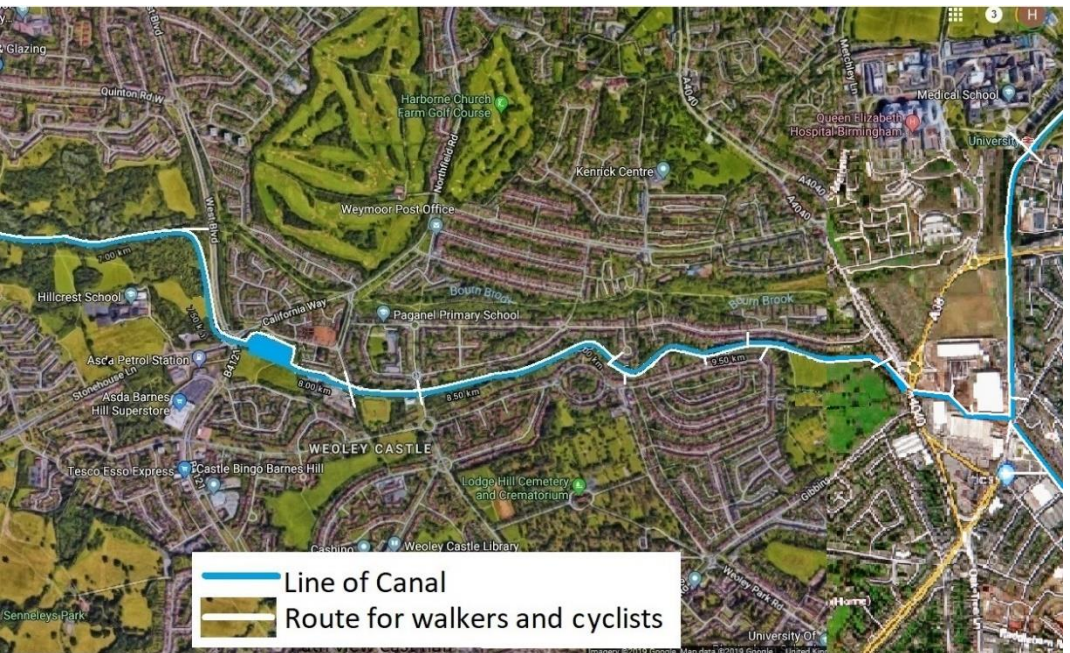
18. Securing the Route and Paths

While our focus is first to raise the funds to make a start on restoring the canal to Selly Oak and then to extend the canal to California, we are mindful to ensure in discussion with Birmingham City Council and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council on making sure the whole route is properly secured. At the moment it is mentioned in the council plans as a requirement, but it would be better for it to be more specific. We would also like to arrange a proper path along the route. This is being actively pursued by our committee members, Dr Andrew Hardie and Roy Burgess.



19. Archiving, Oral History, Research relating to the Dudley No. 2 Canal

Tony, our Treasurer and Company Secretary, who used to live by the canal requests “I am gradually collecting any information relating to the history of the Dudley No.2 If you have any images, published articles or personal stories you are willing to share, please contact me, Dr Tony Whateley on 07751100810 or t.whateley@sky.com. I am particularly keen to meet up with anyone who has memories of the canal in water from Selly Oak to the eastern portal of the Lapal Tunnel.”



20. Political Support

As might be expected we have the support of all the political parties, this is very important if we are to deliver a restored Dudley No 2 Canal. For a long time we have enjoyed the support of Selly Oak MP Steve McCabe. He is one of our Advisors and attends the Selly Oak festival. More recently we were very pleased to meet at the Leasowes James Morris, Member of Parliament for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, to discuss the restoration work and the development of the Dudley No2 Canal through the Leasowes. We thank Councillor John Lines from Birmingham City Council for arranging the meeting, following his association with the Canal since childhood. James has been closely following our activity and, with his staff, is very supportive, he understood all the opportunities and is concerned to develop the Leasowes and to preserve the surrounding green belt. This adds to the excellent support we receive from other Councillors from both



Halesowen and Birmingham. We are also very grateful for the support of Friends of Leasowes Park, Coombeswood Canal Trust, The Halesowen Abbey Trust and the Walled Garden.

21. Publicity opportunities



In July John Vidal Environment Editor of the Guardian/Observer rang the Lapal Canal Trust. John explained he was doing an article on canals and could he come and talk to us about the restoration of the Dudley No 2 Canal. Two days later he was on narrow boat IVY travelling from Gas Street to Selly Oak and then walked the route of the canal in Selly Oak Park and by Sainsbury's. Then back on the boat and a trip around Icknield Port Loop.



The article includes interviews with Alison Smedley of IWA, Simon Atkinson of the Wild Life Trust and Joe Coggins of CRT, so we are in good company. The article first appeared in the Guardian online, followed on Sunday, 28th of July by a special canal supplement in the Observer (The photos in the Guardian on line version are not included in the Observer) You can find the online version on our Website. <https://www.lapalcanal.co.uk/reports/> So big thanks to John for an enjoyable day and some invaluable publicity.

Donation / Membership Form

I/We would like to pay by:

Standing Order: Please complete the SO form below and post to your bank

Bank transfer: Please remit to Lapal Canal Trust, HSBC, Account No. 91517856, Sort Code: 40-23-03 using your last name as the reference

PayPal: Please visit our website www.lapal.org

Cheque: Please make payable to Lapal Canal Trust and send to

Dr T L Whateley, Lapal Canal Trust, 285 Harborne Road, Birmingham, B15 3JB

Phone 07751100810

Are you eligible for Gift Aid relief: Yes / No

Bank Standing Order Form

To: Your Bank

Name

Address

.....

Post Code:

Your Sort Code:Your Account Number:

Your Account Name:

Please pay £ annually from 1st until further notice to:

Lapal Canal Trust. HSBC Account No. 91517856 Sort Code: 40-23-03

Signed:

Date:

Membership Application Form

(Regd Charity no: 1013845)

I / We wish to become members of the LAPAL CANAL TRUST

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone No:.....Email Address:.....

GIFT AID:

As a registered charity the Trust is able to claim
gift aid from basic rate taxpayers
Please indicate if you are willing for us to do this:

YES / NO | AM / I AM NOT A BASIC RATE TAXPAYER

Membership Categories & Rates (Please State Amount in the Appropriate Box)

TYPE	ANNUAL	10 YEAR	STATE
Adult	£12.00	£108	
Family or Couple (inc. Children)	£20	£180	
Pensioner/Junior/F. T. Student	£6	£54	
Corporate	£30	£250	

Signature:.....

I / We enclose full payment of £.....

Please make cheques payable to: Lupal Canal Trust
and return this completed form and remittance to:

Dr Tony Whateley, LCT Membership Secretary,
285 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3JB
email: membership@lupal.org | Telephone 07751 100810

Payment can also be made via PayPal from our website www.lupalcanalproject.co.uk.
Please also send an email to: membership@lupal.org if you join or rejoin via PayPal.

Payment by Standing Order. Please complete the form on page 26.

I agree that the Lapal Canal Trust will hold membership details in accordance with GDPR May 2018 and does not share this information with any other organisation and may send me future communications. YES

The Lapal Canal Trust is a registered charity (no 1013845) and a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 2721675) Registered office: 18 St Georges Close, Birmingham, B15 3TP.

Founded in 1990 for the conservation and restoration of the Dudley No. 2 Canal from Hawne Basin, Halesowen to Selly Oak

My Main Interests are:

Please tick relevant box / boxes

The Entire Lapal Canal	
Western End (Halesowen)	
Eastern Section (Selly Oak)	
Angling	
Boating	
Conservation	
Environment	
History / Heritage History	
Walking / Jogging / Cycling	

*If you can help with IT matters and Newsletters
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