

Lapal Link

Newsletter of the
Lapal Canal Trust
Autumn / Winter
2020



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Membership Application and Standing Order Form.

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.	Former 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

Simon Dearn & David Scowcroft

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)

John Lines

Janella Kolas

Malcolm Bates

Arthur Moppett

Richard Chivers

Co-Chairs of Birmingham University Conservation Volunteers

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

Advisors

Environmental & Ecology

Mary Green WB&DCS

Legal

Toni Weston Partner Gowling WLG

Financial

Laurence Parkes Parkes & Co

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.

www.lapal.org
www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust



Andrew Hardie – Chair's Report

Welcome to our Newsletter with information on current activity and future plans. Some items are similar to the last issue so that people reading the Newsletter for the first time have a clearer view of the whole project. We are immensely grateful for the support we have received. Over the last two years we have received 16 donations worth £173k from smaller Birmingham based charities and individuals and 24 donations worth £241K from national charities and individuals. Also, very many smaller donations under £200. It is, we believe, of great value to receive a significant percentage from local charities to help demonstrate strong local support. We have featured two of our larger donors and are sorry we don't have the space to feature the many other donors who have given so generously, in many cases a high proportion of their charity Income. It's very much appreciated, especially as many of them are smaller Birmingham based Charities. We thank you all for your support.



2020 Annual General Meeting.

Scheduled for November, Monday the 24th at 7pm. This is advanced notice with papers to follow. It will be organised with Zoom for remote access

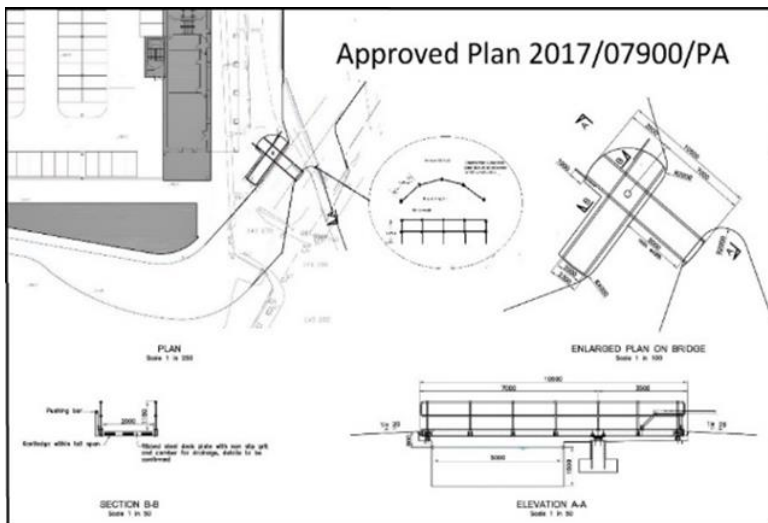
Progress with the work

1. Planning Applications.

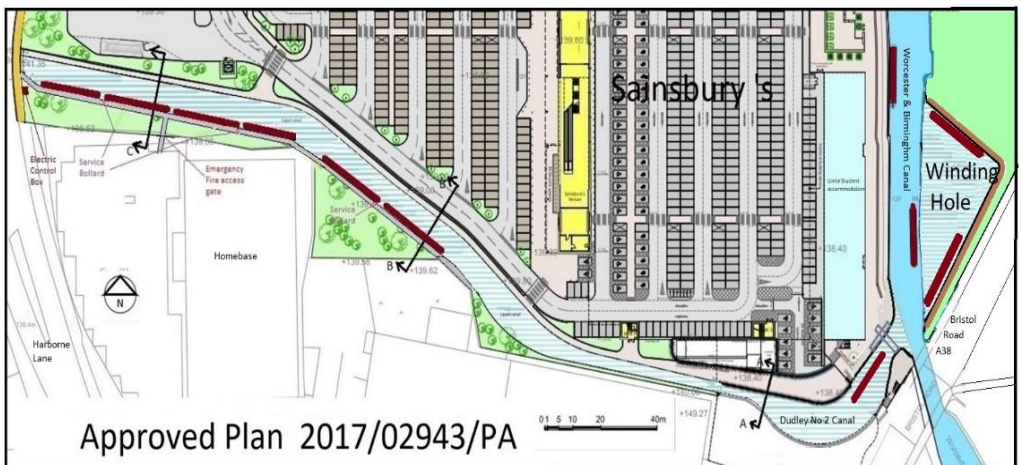


All three planning applications for restoration of the canal past Sainsbury's have been approved. On November the 15th, 2019 we received the final planning approval from Birmingham City

Council. We are also grateful to the developers Landsec for their help and a contribution of £48k for the removal of excess soil. We plan 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. 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 are grateful for their help.



Swing bridge to allow the Worcester & Birmingham Canal Tow path to cross the canal Junction.



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

2.Proceeding to build the Winding Hole.



The work is completed in two parts; the first part shown in the pictures includes the Sheet Metal Piling financed by the developer as part of the Section 106 Agreement.

Having completed a tendering process, the Trust have appointed Land and Water Services to construct the Winding Hole; detailed plans were available mid-September for submission to the Canal & River Trust and the Highways Department.

We would hope to start work before Christmas. Plans will also need to be approved by Birmingham City Council and the Landowner M & G Real Estate.



3.Fundraising

We summarise the press releases issued on two of our recent larger donors and summarise the current position

'Unite Students' make a £20,000 contribution to the building of the Winding Hole

Founded in 1991 in Bristol, Unite Group is an award-winning Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). Unite Students is the UK's largest owner, manager and developer of purpose-built student accommodation serving the country's world-leading higher education sector. Their impressive new student home, Battery Park, opened in September 2019, and overlooks the Winding Hole. The building

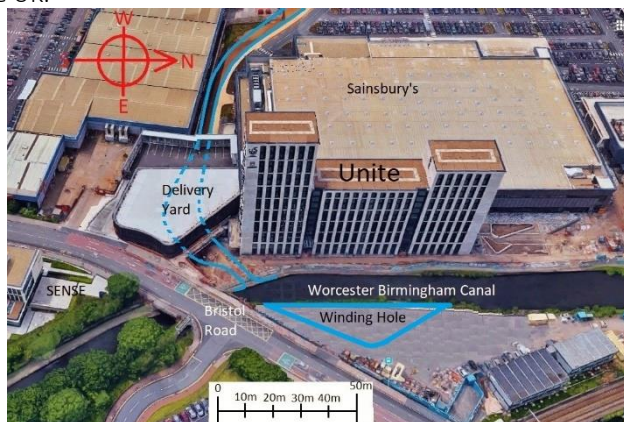


houses a total of 418 students. In total Unite Students provides accommodation for 74,000 students in 27 cities across the UK.



Victoria Simmons, Area Manager of Birmingham at Unite Students, comments:

“Our top priority is keeping our students safe and providing a brilliant experience; we want to extend this to the local community in the areas surrounding our students home. We look forward to continuing this work going forwards, bringing in more student involvement to help with their integration into the local community and spread these efforts even further.”



For more information, please visit Unite's corporate website www.unite-group.co.uk , www.linkedin.com/company/unite-group-plc/ or the Unite Foundation www.unitefoundation.co.uk

In August we were able to announce that the Garfield Weston Foundation had awarded £40,000 towards the restoration of the Dudley No 2 canal

We were pleased to have been recognised by the Garfield Weston Foundation. www.garfieldweston.org We received a letter from Sophia Weston, Trustee and granddaughter of the Founder.



“I am pleased to inform you that your application has been reviewed and am delighted to award a grant of £40,000 to your organisation. We hope that this will not only be good news for your organisation but that it will encourage other funders to support your project. We send you our very best wishes for your continued fundraising and look forward to hearing more in due course.”

This award will be a significant part of the funding of the Winding Hole in Selly Oak allowing boats to turn, enter and exit the soon to be restored canal. Land and Water Services have already started on the detailed design. It will be a very attractive water feature in the heart of Selly Oak and a destination for trip boats from Birmingham.

As a result, the Foundation is still the ultimate controller of the company today and over the years have been remarkably generous supporter of charities.”



The Garfield Weston Foundation was established in 1958 by Willard Garfield Weston, a businessman who moved to the UK with his family in 1932. He was the creator of Associated British Foods and the Foundation was endowed with a donation of family-owned company shares. As a result, the Foundation is still the ultimate controller of the company today. It has dozens of brands for example Ovaltine, Twinings, Silver Spoon, Ryvita, and Allied Bakeries-Kingsmill. On the retail side it owns Primark with its biggest store in Birmingham



Willard Garfield Weston



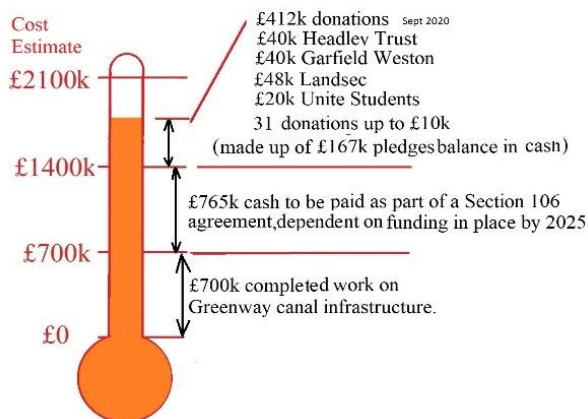
Garfield Weston Snr. was succeeded as chairman of both Associated British Foods and the Garfield Weston Foundation by one of his sons, Garfield Howard Weston (Garry), who in the second half of the 20th century successfully developed the company into a major international organisation, and at the same time became one of the UK's most well regarded philanthropists.

During Garry's time as chairman (over nearly 25 years) the Foundation's annual donations grew from less than £1 million to over £30 million and he made a positive impact on numerous projects, both large and small, throughout the

United Kingdom.

The Trustees today are all lineal descendants of the founder and remain committed to continuing the family's philanthropic ethos that has made the Foundation one of the largest and most respected charitable institutions in the country. Each year the Foundation spends all of the income it receives, and donations continue to grow.

Overview of donations



In addition 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, Jabbs Trust, Rowland Trust, Grimmitt 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 Charitable Trust, Bernard Piggott Charitable Trust, Dumbreck Charity, Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust, CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust, donation in memory of Dr Ian Langford, subscribers of canal magazines. Beekeepers Association, Bournville Society, Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust, Langdale Trust, Saintbury Trust, The Roger & Douglas Turner Charitable Foundation, Selly Park Gardening Club, Birmingham Canal Navigation Society, Ratcliff Foundation, John Feeney Charitable Trust, Tim Watts of Pertemps, Aviva, and many members of the Lapal Canal Trust.

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

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%

Engaging with the community

The Lapal 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. In particular we would like to thank the Community Partnership for Selly Oak (CP4SO). It's an umbrella organisation bringing together a number of groups in the ward for the purpose of injecting a local, community view into the planning process. The group also has direct representation from local residents and businesses. Supporting groups are as follows

Selly Oak St Mary's Neighbourhood Forum. Frederick Rd and Rachel Gardens Residents Association. Lodge Hill Rd Residents Association, Friends of Selly Oak Park, Friends of Westhill Playing Fields, 1st Ariel, 113rd Birmingham Scout Group, Tiverton Area Residents Association (Neighbourhood Forum), Warwards Lane / Ten Acres Residents Group, Harborne Lane Allotments Association, Langleys Rd Neighbourhood Watch, Selly Park South Neighbourhood Forum, Selly Oak Local History Group, Selly Park Property Owners Association, Weoley Hill Village Council, Gristhorpe Rd Residents Group

4. 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 trips at the beginning of the year, regrettably the need to avoid the risk of spreading the virus have put further trips on hold. We look forward to being able to resume as soon as it is safe.

December. SENSE trip we were again lucky with the weather despite the dire forecast of heavy rain, but the high winds made mooring difficult. We visited the BBC studios in the Mailbox and watched the Archers programme being prepared, then a quick trip to the top of the Cube to admire the view and a walk to Brindley Place where the cosy boat was waiting for our return trip to Selly Oak with cups of tea, biscuits and sandwiches.



January. With thin ice on the canal in Selly Oak it was a bit cold but dry with some sunshine with the Squirrel stove keeping us nice and warm.





SENSE staff and their charges boarded at Selly Oak for a 2nd visit to the top floor of Cube and the BBC at the Mailbox, then a walk along the tow path to the boat waiting at Brindley Place. Carers do a great job with Jon keeping us happy with cups of tea and biscuits - ginger nuts



and Jaffa cakes.

February. An interesting weather day, high wind, sunshine, rain, hail and snow, but fortunately no flood in Birmingham. But with a nice coal fire it was cosy on the boat. Thanks to Jon for arranging with cups of tea. One stop at the Mailbox to visit the BBC and the Cube. Hope you like the pictures.



5. Presenting to Local Societies

The Canal became part of the BCN in 1846 and discussing the history with the Birmingham Canal Navigation Society (BCNS), was very interesting. Many thanks also



the Nifty Fifties Shenley Green, and South Birmingham Labour



Beautiful Lightwoods House

Party Group, meeting at Lightwood House for their invitations to give presentations. Very lively discussion and questions from the Nifty Fifties group

with lots of engagement and support for the canal. Interesting reminiscence of boats on the canal with one member remembering the blacksmith shoeing



the horses pulling the boats. Thanks for the huge interest shown, donations to our restoration fund, and offers of help.

The Trust is always interested to giving presentations on the History and Restoration of the Dudley No 2 Canal. If you would like, please contact Hugh on nbhugh@gmail.com.

Volunteer work

6. Birmingham University Students

Big thanks to the Birmingham University Conservation Volunteers for their much-appreciated hard work to keep the path along Harborne Wharf clear. Last minute change of date from Sunday to Saturday was certainly a good decision as the weather was beautiful. Even the ducks seemed happy



7. Clearing at the Leasowes.

Winter is a time for clearing the summer growth and Peter Fisher was busy with his team of



volunteers helping to clear the bramble and saplings that have grown alongside and in the bed of the canal. We thank the wardens for their help. Peter is arranging a work party every month. Rain or shine Peter and his dedicated group of volunteers for doing a great job over the autumn and winter cutting down the sapling

growth along the bed of the canal. The map of the Leasowes shows where the work has been carried out. We achieved much more than expected. Cleared a lot of bramble and saplings to help preserve the route of the canal. Pictures show some of the group and activities. And yes, the sapling in the main picture was also removed. If you want to help this Autumn and

Winter please contact Peter Fisher lapal@ptfcontrollers.co.uk and 07966 631648. Notice of work parties also appear on our Facebook page



General Items

8. 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." The following note has been put together by Tony and Roy



9. How it all started (2020 is our 30th Anniversary)

The Lapal Canal Trust was founded in 1990. The only current Committee member who was involved in the formation is Roy Burgess, who gives us his recollections:



The Lapal Canal at Halesowen "Reflections" 1950s – 1990s by Roy Burgess.

The crystal-clear waters of the canal in Halesowen, from the Leasowes Park to the dark mysterious portal of Lapal Tunnel, teemed at one time with an abundance of wildlife.

Nature had taken over this stretch of a still rural waterway, due to the absence of commercial boat traffic, following the partial collapse of Lapal Tunnel in 1917.

The towpath remained in good order and provided access for walking, cycling and fishing. This was one of the many wonderful amenities, enjoyed by a post war generation, and known locally as the 'Lapal Canal'.

Many a pleasant Sunday afternoon could be spent, rowing a boat, hired from the Leasowes Park for a few modest shillings. Care would have to be taken when rowing past the nesting swans, just past the Black Horse Public House on Manor Lane (now Way).

This is the photo of my Dad rowing under Manor Lane Bridge ca 1960. I am seated with my schoolmate in the rear of the boat.



However, those long off halcyon days of the 1950s were soon to be distant memory, as the "motorway age" finally approached. No longer seen as an amenity or wildlife haven, the Lapal Canal was filled in during 1964/65 from the West Portal of Lapal Tunnel, to just past

Manor Lane Bridge, with spoil from roadworks associated with construction of the M5 Motorway. During the summers of 1988 and '89, the water level of the remaining canal in the Leasowes Park

dropped dramatically. Following which, in December 1989 Dudley Council commissioned Ove Arup and Partners, consulting engineers to investigate remedial measures of the canal in the Leasowes. Ove Arup's report was made available to the Halesowen Abbey Trust, during the summer of 1990, and figures quoted were as follows;

- Fill in the whole canal £118,000
- Reinstall the whole canal £425,000

In September 1990, The Abbey Trust produced its own report, and proposed that the cost of the remedial works could be far less than estimated.

The Abbey Trust's interest in the Lapal canal is that it provides a link from Coombeswood via the Leasowes, and on to the open Countryside surrounding Halesowen Abbey.

Previously, in 1986, the Abbey Trust had successfully campaigned to oppose the building of a large hotel near the ruins of Halesowen Abbey. The proposal was a threat to the Green Belt and would have severed the line of the canal. However, during October of 1990, the Chairman of The Halesowen Abbey Trust, Mr Ron Gordon, suggested that a canal trust should be set up to cover the whole line of the Dudley No.2 Lapal Canal as the Abbey Trust's "area of benefit", only extended to the Woodgate Valley Visitor's Centre, and not all the way to Selly Oak.

Following Ron Gordon's suggestion, an invitation letter was sent out on the 30th October 1990 by The Halesowen Abbey Trust's general secretary. It read:

"Proposal to form the Lapal Canal Trust Limited

You are cordially invited to attend a meeting at Hawne Basin, Halesowen 7pm prompt, Wednesday 7th November 1990, the purpose of which is to initiate the 'forming of the above company'".

The letter was sent to:

Mr Geoff Setchfield- Coombeswood Canal Trust	Mr Mick Freer- Southern Green Belt Group
Mr Tim Weller- Halesowen Wildlife Group	Mr Andy Maginnis- Halesowen Abbey Trust

And so; - The first meeting of the Lapal Canal Group was held on Wednesday 7th November 1990 7pm at Hawne Basin Cabin

- Purpose of the meeting- to form a Company known as 'Lapal Canal Trust Limited'.
- Aims of the Company- "To restore to full navigable standard the Dudley No. 2 Canal from Hawne Basin to its terminus at Selly Oak".
- All present at the meeting agreed unanimously on the above proposal
- Present and nominations-

Mr Geoff Setchfield- Chairman	Mr Roy Hipkiss (now Burgess) - Secretary
Mr Dick Mantle- Treasurer	Mr Dave Necklen- Vice Chairman
Mr Andy Maginnis- Local Publicity Officer	Mr Tim Weller- Conservation Officer

The Trust became a Limited Company on the 9th June, 1992 (Company number 2721675) and was accepted as a Registered Charity on August 23rd, 1992 (Charity Number 1013845)

In the 1990's, the Trust focussed its activities on the Halesowen (Western) end of the Dudley No.2 restoration.

The Pakes report concluded that full restoration (including the tunnel) would cost about £28 million. (about £51 million in 2020 money) About £17.5 million (£32 million today) was for the tunnel.

In 1997, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council placed a contract of £200,000+ to restore part of the canal in the Leasowes Park. Work started on March 3, 1997 and although remaining in water, now requires re-lining.

Tony has added the following notes

In 1997 our President Dr Peter Best joined the Trust committee, he became Chairman in 2003 and led the Trust for 14 years before retiring and Terry Stanton kindly agreed to take over the Chair, followed more recently by Dr Andrew Hardie. The first indication of Dr Peter Best joining the Committee was in "Lapal Link" No. 9, July, 1997 where he is the "Eastern Approach Planning" Member : one of 29 members of the Committee. The major successes of his period as Chairman were at the Eastern (Selly Oak) end of the restoration.

A major move forward in 2007 was the commissioning of the Atkins Report, which provided a detailed engineering report on the restoration of the whole length of the Dudley No.2 canal. The concept of restoring the Lapal Tunnel was abandoned in favour of an "over-the-top" route through the Woodgate Valley. A restored tunnel of 3795 yards would be of benefit solely to boaters, as well as being extremely expensive, if possible, given that a housing estate had been built on the line of the tunnel and that the geology of the area had always been a problem. A waterway through the area would be of benefit to walkers, cyclists, anglers, wildlife as well as boaters, canoeists and the environment in general. The total cost was estimated at £ 50 million (£70 million in 2020 money).

Following the Atkins Feasibility Report, suggesting the "over-the-top" route, a "Walk-the-Line" day was inaugurated in 2009, walking the proposed route from Selly Oak to the Leasowes, about 6 miles. This continues to the present, always led by Dr Peter Best, although in recent years sharing the walk with Roy Burgess who leads the second half from the Woodgate Visitor Centre to the Leasowes.

The campaign to have a full canal channel built under the new proposed Harborne Lane layout was continued by the Trust (successfully built in 2009/2010). There was a vigorous campaign "behind the scenes" to make sure that the whole of Harborne Bridge was rebuilt as part of the bypass scheme to Navigable Standards. What was of great help was the publication of "Waterways for Tomorrow" published by the DETR, during 2000, spearheaded by John Prescott M.P. In the publication revised Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 is quoted as to " encourages local authorities to protect disused waterways where there is a realistic likelihood of restoration."

The original restoration plan for the Battery Park site had been in 2001 and had included canal side shops/bars as in Brindley Place in central Birmingham. However, early in 2012, a revised proposal for the development was put forward by the Harvest Partnership (Sainsbury's and Land Securities), which had the glaring omission of the Lapal Canal. Immediate petitioning by the Trust and the gathering of public objections resulted in an amended plan to include restoration of the canal route, initially as a Greenway, through the site but not on the original line of the canal. A major success was in obtaining a Section 106 Agreement whereby £2.6 million was made available for the canal restoration. The cleaning of toxic soil from the site commenced in 2015 and the development commenced in 2017 with the opening of the new Sainsbury's store on September 2018 with the canal piling installed along a "Greenway". There

remains about £700,000 of the 106 monies for completion of this section, but a total of about £1.4 million is required in order to start, with the Trust fundraising the remainder. Work needs to commence before 2025.

During **Peter Best's** Chairmanship, a number of Committee members had positions in the wider canal organisations

Ivor Caplan, was appointed national chairman of IWA in October 2017. Ivor previously worked as an architect on waterways projects and lived on his boat for a number of years and had joined IWA in 1975.

Vaughan Welch was Deputy Chairman of IWA in 2016 and had been Chairman of IWA Restoration Committee.

Bob Broomhall – 1941 -2014 was on the Committee from 2005 to 2014

and after a background in the building industry worked with the BCNS and the Coombeswood Canal Trust. He was very active with our restoration projects and hugely appreciated.

“LAPAL LINK”

The Newsletter of the Lapal Canal Trust, the “Lapal Link” has had a chequered history, with issues from No. 1, Spring 1993 to No. 10, February 1998. .

There were then 2 issues of a Newsletter, “Tunnel Vision” (Summer 2001 and Summer 2003) It was only in Spring, 2008, when Helen Jones became the Editor, that regular issues of “Lapal Link” resumed until 2012 when Helen and her husband, Ray Jones, were unable to continue in their full roles (Ray had become Treasurer) for health reasons.

A few simple A4 Newsletters were produced in 2016 and in Autumn 2017, issues of the A5 booklet form of “Lapal Link” resumed, and continue with occasional issues to the present.

I (Tony Whateley) joined the Trust in 2010 after seeing the Trust's banner at the old junction in Selly Oak with the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, whilst visiting Birmingham from Glasgow. I had lived in Burnel Rd, and our garden backed onto the canal when it was in water in the 1940s, so I was keen to see it restored. When I moved permanently back to Birmingham in 2014, I contacted the Chairman, Dr Peter Best, to offer any help. I was invited to lunch at The Highfield with the Committee of Peter, Helen and Ray Jones (who had become Treasurer in 2011), Terry Stanton and Hugh Humphreys. I thought what a nice group of enthusiasts: the next thing was that I was Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Archivist ! There is no such thing as a free lunch!

A similar hi-jacking happened to our current Chairman, Dr Andrew Hardie, in 2018, when after stepping up to Chair a couple of Committee meetings, the next thing that he knew was that he was elected Chairman at the AGM. Hugh Humphreys, OBE, has been appointed CEO, a role that reflects his on-going contributions to the Trust's success in recent years and Dr Peter Best remains involved as President.

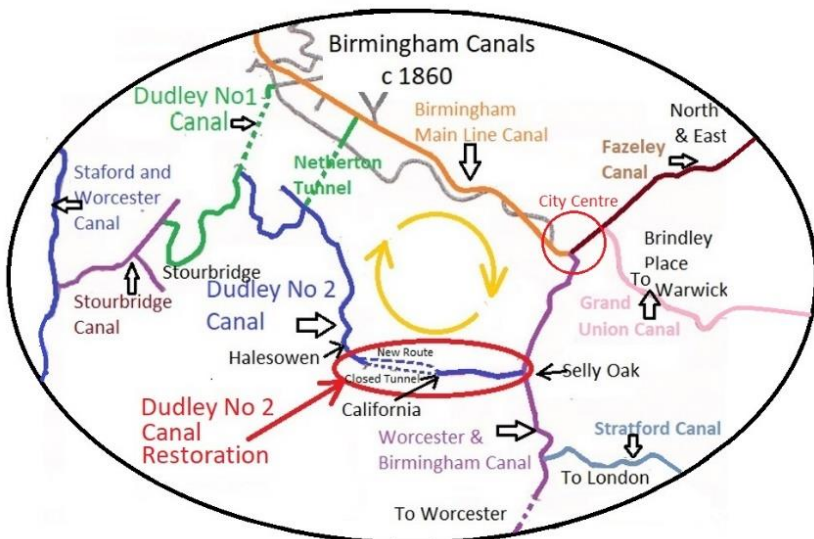
In the last few years, the major effort has been in fundraising with about 100 sources approached by Hugh Humphreys and a few Committee members. About £412,000 has so far been raised. A contract for about £285,000 is shortly to be signed to complete the turning/winding hole at the Selly Oak Junction with the W&B canal and complete the landscaping of the Goodman's yard area.

10. New Leaflet on the Canal Ring.

We wanted to appeal to funders interested in the whole canal project, hence we have a new 4 page leaflet, the following is an extract

Help Restore the Complete Birmingham Canal Ring

In 1798 Lord Dudley completed his vision of a Birmingham City Centre by-pass canal around the Birmingham suburbs. The first canal in the link, designed by James Brindley, was the Birmingham Main Line Canal opened in 1772. 26 years later the Dudley No2 Canal completed the canal ring and lasted for 120 years until the Lapal Canal Tunnel collapsed in 1917. Our vision is to reinstate the 26-mile canal ring.



We have begun restoring the 5.5-mile-long closed section of the Dudley No 2 Canal. We intend protecting our heritage for future generations to appreciate and enjoy and to provide a unique recreational activity; a calm ring of water and fragrant towpaths around Birmingham to be enjoyed by all. In 2007 a comprehensive study confirmed the feasibility. The restoration would make existing historical features more accessible and provide tourist opportunities by water and towpath. There are renovation and business opportunities across a wide area of Southern Birmingham.

Route of the to be Re:

Leasowes 1798



Hawne Basin Marina



Shenstone Gardens 1755



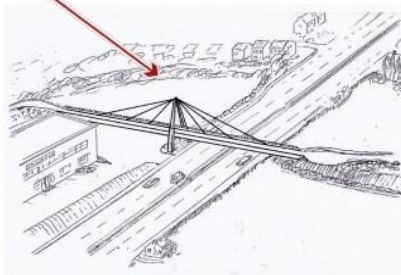
Large



Halesowen



Halesowen Abbey 1215



Manor Way Bridge



New Triple

11. Progress by Roy and colleagues at the Leasowes.



There are big plans to improve the Leasowes area led by Friends of Leasowes Park and their Chairman David Chaffey. On the 4th of September Roy Burgees Director/ Trustee of the Lapal Canal Trust arranged a meeting to discuss the complimentary improvements to be made to the Canal and to bring back Water.

Fortunately, the weather was fine, and it was a pleasure to meet outside. Roy Burgess had invited, Edward Pinfield Construction Advisor for LTC, David Chaffey Chairman., Friends of The Leasowes (FOL) Andrew Chaney Senior Engineer., Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) Scott Kenwick Engineer of DMBC., Antony Ravenscroft Senior Warden., Leasowes (DMBC) and Hugh Humphreys CEO of LTC.



David Chaffey outlined proposals being put forward to provide a new visitor centre for The Leasowes together with improved children's play area and reconstruction of the existing car park, also to improve the access road and make the entrance safer and more visible. This would without doubt complement the canal restoration.



Antony Ravenscroft confirmed that the Leasowes (which includes the canal) has the following designations and restrictions;



- (i) Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- (ii) Grade 1 Listed on the on the Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England
- (iii) Conservation Area Schedule 4.
- (iv) Invasive Species --- "New Zealand Pygmy Weed" present in the water of the canal along the sides only and this is treated on a regular basis with an approved spray.



Edward Pinfield outlined the plan and cost of work needed to have the canal full of water

- (a) To carry out remedial works to each localised crack in the concrete retaining walls.
- (b) Remove vegetation and re puddle the bed of the canal to a thickness of 300mm.
- (c) Repair the Overflow Weir
- (d) Install suitable drainage from the overflow weir to a new headwall discharging into Breaches Pool

- (e) Replace defective brick coping to the canal retaining walls
- (f) To construct a gabion retaining wall to part of the canal embankment so as to reinstate the angle of the present slope.

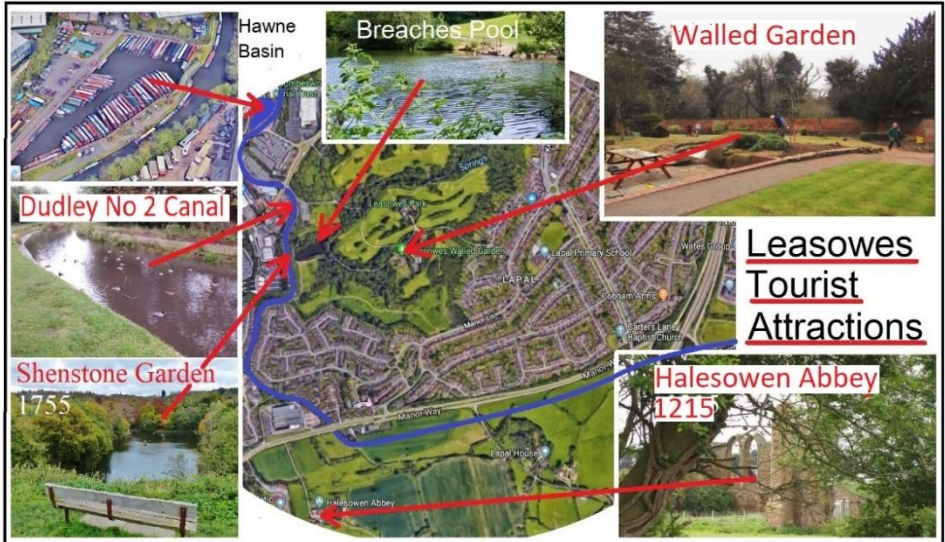
At this stage the Lapal Canal Trust are seeking approval from Dudley MBC , so that the above solutions are acceptable in principle to form the basis for further action of a restoration scheme.

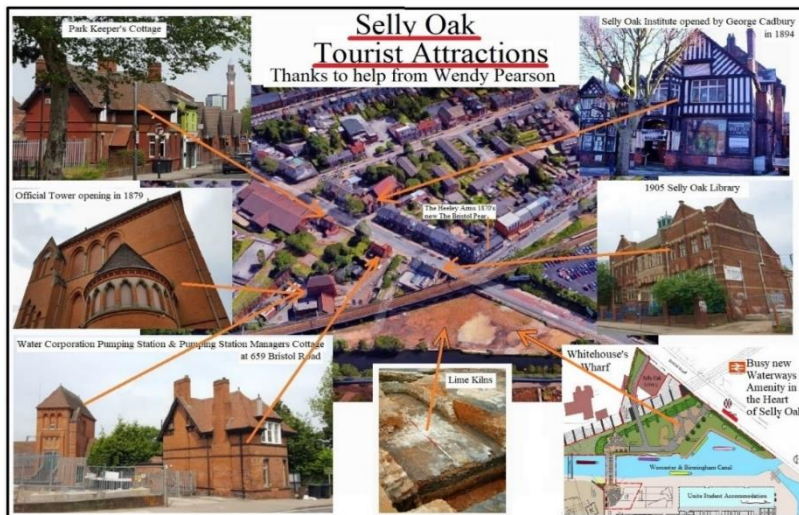
To progress this further LCT will formally put the above request in writing to Andrew Chaney for his consideration.



12 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.





14. Letter Heading and Logo development

We hope you like our updated picture on the front cover and are not too dazzled by eye catching psychedelic image used as background. The picture was first produced by Moss Naylor Young Consultants and appeared on the front cover of our feasibility study. We were delighted by the



Patrick Moss explained

The initial artwork was done by Tamarisk Kay, who at the time provide us with graphics support and also lived in Yardley Wood, not that far away from Selly Oak. Tamarisk did other graphics for the 2018 report we prepared for you. Tamarisk has

since gone into academia and is currently undertaking a research degree at the University of Birmingham. The amendments from that graphic were undertaken by Marc Zandy, a Frome based graphic designer who was brought in to replace Tamarisk last year and added various extras at your request. Marc also drew the impression of three-rise staircase at California for you. Marc's main interest is in designing exhibitions and he also has CAD skills



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 I 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: Lapal 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@lapal.org | Telephone 07751 100810

Payment can also be made via PayPal from our website www.lapalcanalproject.co.uk.
Please also send an email to: membership@lapal.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 ☐

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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
then please contact membership@lapal.org*

Website: www.lapal.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust

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