

*Stroudwater, Thames & Severn  
Canal Trust Limited*

# THE TROW

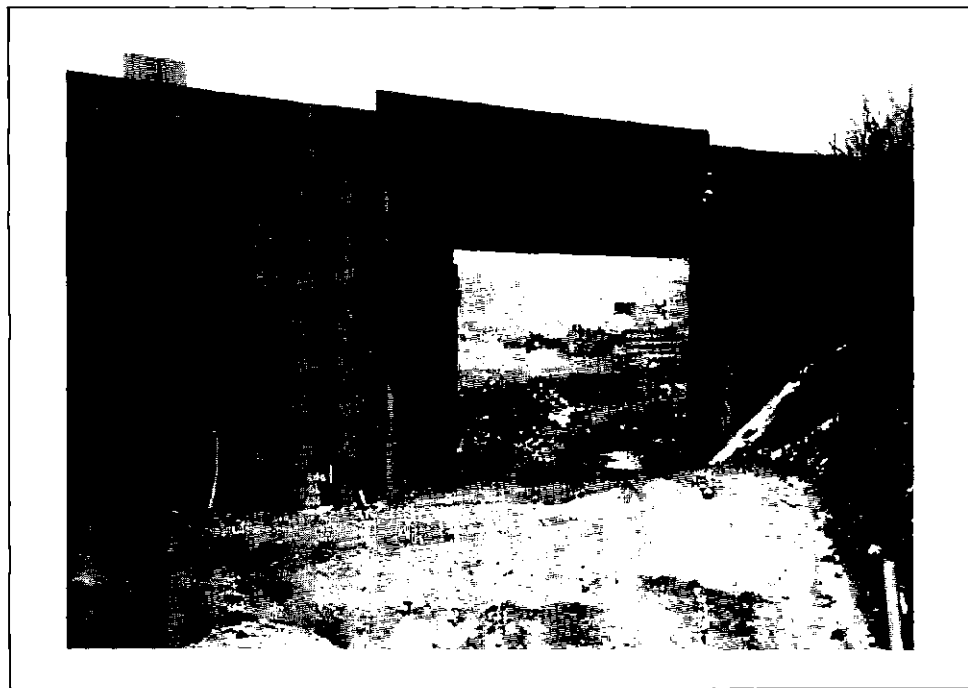
*The Official Magazine for Members and Friends  
working to restore the Cotswold Canals.*

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Number 56

Spring 1987

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30p

## COPY DATES

Spring 10th February  
 Summer 10th May  
 Autumn 10th August  
 Winter 10th November

THE VIEWS & OPINIONS IN  
 THIS MAGAZINE DO NOT  
 NECESSARILY REPRESENT  
 THOSE OF STROUDWATER  
 THAMES & SEVERN  
 CANAL TRUST LTD.

## Contents

Secretary's Report	2
Thames End Branch	3
Western Branch	4
Sponsored Walk	6
Boats on the Cut	7
Road Works: Photo Feature	8
Bowbridge Days	12
Membership Matters	16
Letters to the Editor	17
Grand Draw	18
Sales	19
Diary Dates	20

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## Editorial

Now, more than ever, is a time for looking forward with news of the latest breakthrough in the Secretary's Report. It is an exciting time for all involved with the Trust and I look forward to including reports on future developments.

However, I make no apologies for devoting a large part of this TROW to a pictorial record of the developments under the railway viaduct close to Stroud centre. It is sad to see part of our canal disappearing under the new road but we are secure in the knowledge that the through route is protected by our proposed diversion and marina for which we have outline planning permission.

A fascinating article has been written by Frank Edgeworth, a resident of Stroud who spent much of his youth close to the canal at Bowbridge. He has provided some excellent photographs and I do hope they reproduce well in the finished magazine. I also hope to coax more tales from Frank for future issues!

Please do keep the articles, old and new photographs, etc., rolling in. I am especially keen to receive letters for publication. I believe that the TROW should be used by the members to air their views and should become a medium for comment and discussion.

DAVID JOWETT

FRONT COVER: Work begins on the new Stroud Bypass.

Don't worry - we have another way round!

## Secretary's Report

In the first three months of this year we appear to be achieving one of our major goals, to receive sensible Local Authority support for our restoration scheme. Stroud District Council's canal working party have continued to meet and examine the amenity and recreational prospects of the canals in their area. This has led to a recommendation for a sensible grant towards our work. Additionally, the Company of Proprietors have indicated that they will match the proposed Council's input.

The snag? We have to raise a tripartate sum, so fund raising is our major task for the immediate future.

This breakthrough is based on a detailed engineering survey of necessary works to restore the canals to navigation from Westfield Lock, Eastington to Hope Mill Lock, Thrupp, a distance of six and a half miles. It would appear that the canal works could be carried out by a 50 man M.S.C. C.P. scheme over a period of five years if sufficient finance was available. It is vital, therefore, that we have the full support of our members if we are to put this proposal into practice.

Stroud residents will be aware that the construction of the East/West Bypass has started, and we as a Trust must now seriously concern ourselves with the proposed canal diversion and marina to maintain the through route. What I am really saying to all the Trust members, you, reading this report, is that we are now moving into a different ballgame. We have achieved credibility in the right places, now we all have to work to maintain it. We have to produce positive logical results. What we cannot do is run out of steam and miss the opportunity that is within our grasp.

This will involve more active participation from within the membership, and we don't mean merely to dig mud or lay bricks. What we need are skills and advice to aid our present small dedicated band of activists. We need advice and assistance to ensure that our work is carried out for the benefit and future enjoyment of the maximum number of people. For example, how can the canals be developed for the maximum benefit of local schools, anglers, walkers, ornithologists, local residents? What are the key historic sites? Is there a need for parking and access? If so, where? etc. etc. Your Council needs advice on these matters so that they can incorporate it into their future policy.

If we get this off the ground we need some very good publicists to spread the word. It is time we pooled our resources for the benefit of the canals and the district. Don't contact just me, contact your local Trust Council members, their names and telephone numbers are at the front of the TROW.

DAVID H. BOAKES

## Thames End Branch

In spite of cold spells and other distractions, our various activities are continuing to make progress. There has been a welcome influx of new and enthusiastic hands, and invaluable help from our friends from the Waterways Recovery Group and Bristol University.

As a result the first top lock gate for Cerney Wick is nearly ready to be installed, and clearance at Wildmoorway II Lock has been possible at the same time. At the lock our diggers have found a weir of somewhat strange pattern and are gradually unearthing it. This weir has a sloping stone face running down to a brick channel which leads into a brick culvert parallel to the line of the canal, presumably emerging in the lower pound at some point not visible as yet. Nothing like the occasional surprise to keep up the interest and add a little spice to the more boring routines of restoration. Which brings us back to the lock gates, the second one of which is also receiving attention. We are hoping of course that our various tricks of the trade developed for gate 1 will speed up progress on gate 2, and are addressing ourselves to the matter of getting them to Cerney Wick and into position. If anyone does have access to a bigish helicopter, please get in touch. Otherwise we shall be back to brute force and confidence.

One of our Branch meetings had to be cancelled on a night when cars were freezing on their car parks, but attendance at these has also been improving. We know that Committee meetings have a bad name, but there is something to be said for sorting out what we are going to do next before the troops gather for the actual work party. A bonus is that they are held in the convivial atmosphere of the Red Lion in Cricklade, so perhaps some of our absent friends will join us at the next one.

In response to enquiries from some of our faithful work camp supporters, the Branch has decided to repeat the event this year. The dates are from the 14th to the 24th August, and it would be good for morale if some of our local members could contrive to come along, however briefly. Installing lock gates and paddle gear are among the intended activities, and should merit a bit of attention from Press and/or T.V. Please note the dates in a conspicuous place and allow yourself a day off.

There are still various public events this year at which we would like to have the Thames End sales stand, but Norman Townsend has had to warn us that he is likely to be a bit short of spare time during the Summer. Offers please from previous helpers or anyone who would like a pleasant day out meeting people and keeping the flag flying.

DERYCK WATKINSON

## Western Branch

With all the aggro of the festive season behind us and a hint of Spring in the air, the Branch Committee are settling down to planning for the coming year. The official policy from the Trust Council is that the voluntary effort is to concentrate primarily on fund raising and publicity, not that the volunteer navvies will be hanging up their wellies just yet! There is plenty to do in advance of the professionals and for sometime yet we can welcome such stalwarts as the Francis Turner Group and all volunteers with physical inclinations.

At last, the Stroud Bypass is under way and we are watching developments with great interest! The immediate effect of the contractors damming off the canal each side of the viaduct was that the pound below to Wallbridge Lock dropped and a rapid rescue operation was launched by the Severn-Trent Water Authority to move the fish elsewhere. It appears that the contractors did not appreciate the volume of water coming down from Bowbridge but are now well aware of the fact. It is to be hoped that they will give their urgent attention to restoring a through flow. The uproar caused by the local anglers did not go unreported by the news media. Having shown little interest in the canal previously, let us hope that they can now give more active support to the Trust in the future, being the first beneficiaries of our work, and that they will appreciate the need for closer co-operation in the future.

British shipbuilding may be in decline, but not in Stroud! With a whip round of Committee members for loans at the February meeting a boat building fund was started, a generous discount on the timber by Messrs. Millington & Ramstedt of Gloucester given, and the building of two trip/work punts is now well in hand at the back of the "Bell". The new boats will be 16' x 5', wider than last year's model, to give more passenger space and improved stability. Given further finance and materials three more are planned and we would welcome cash, materials or sponsorship to achieve this.

As stated in my opening paragraph we are now committed to more fund raising and publicity. There are an infinite number of projects that we can undertake to achieve these aims given more help. We need people to run boat trips, car boot sales, social events, the Trust and Branch sales stands, the raft race, (provisionally 19th July), punt racing etc., but cannot cover the full potential scope of these activities with the dedicated few bodies we have at present. Not to labour the point we ask only that you consider whether you could spare perhaps one day a month even, to help spread the load. The more money we raise and the better we publicise our cause, the sooner we will achieve a working canal.

Since the last TROW work has proceeded at a better rate than expected around Bowbridge. With both work punts and the weedcutter now on Bowbridge Pound, by kind permission of Mrs. Hicks we have a secure mooring by her paddock and adjacent storage for tools. We had a weekend blitz with the Francis Turner Group before Christmas which gave us a head start and a few hardy souls continued steady progress through Christmas. Even when the reed mat was frozen it cut up beautifully and exercise and infusions of coffee kept us warm.

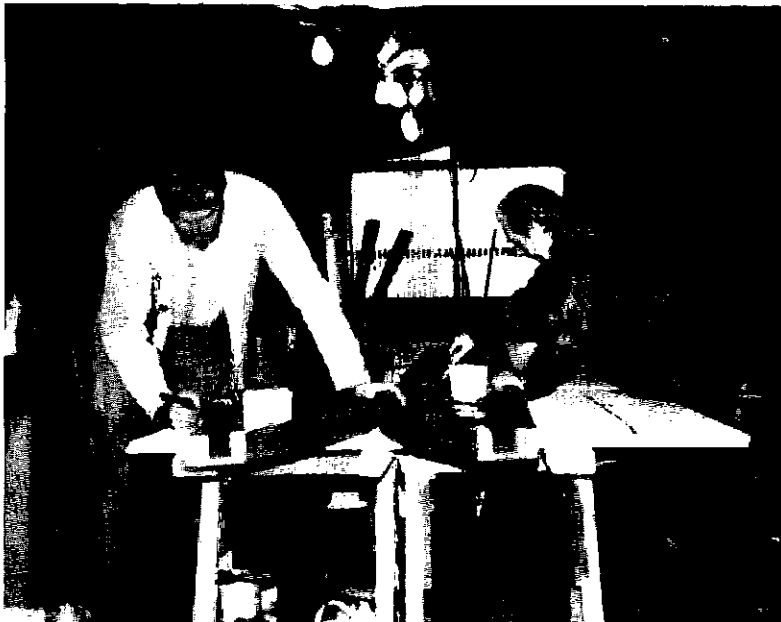
With a little more clearance at the tail of Griffin Mill Lock and cutting back the reeds the pound should be ready in plenty of time for the trip boat season. Below Bowbridge Lock we are clearing the last hundred yards or so of Wallbridge pound: in spite of the hiatus of the road crossing it was felt that we should finish what we started the year before last. It is important we complete this work as far as possible before the birds start nesting.

A welcome new member of our working force, Roger Plenty, appears to have adopted Griffin as his pet project and is busy around the head of the lock clearing, repointing and relaying brickwork. The improvement is already marked and there is a rumour we might have a pair of top gates in the near future.

Already we are considering moving our punt onto Griffins Pound to initially clear a channel along the towpath side. With the towpath relaying proceeding at a steady rate, the M.S.C. gang are now down to Arundels Millpond, it would be nice to achieve at least a work punt channel up to Thrupp as soon as possible.

The weather is improving, the days - and evenings - are lengthening, spring is in the air, and a host of golden daffodils are nodding by Bowbridge Lock (Let's hope the vandals leave them alone this year). To all of you emerging into the great outdoors, please come and see what's happening to your canal, perhaps even you can help make it happen, You will be very welcome!

TONY JONES



Work continues on Tony Jones' new improved punts.

## Sponsored Walk

The Trust Annual Sponsored Walk is considered to be both a worthwhile fundraising and social event, it being a time when members can meet on the canal, see the progress, and talk to the workers. This year it will be held on Sunday 28th June, and will be over the section that the Trust's current efforts are concentrated, from Westfield Lock, Eastington, to Brimscombe and back.

Whilst we are aware of the attractions of the Stroud to Daneway route, it is felt that for this year walkers will be able to see the significant changes and advances that have taken place recently. The walk is approximately the same length.

All members are reminded that this year Stroud District Council and the Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation are likely to match us pound for pound, so can we please make this a bumper effort, as every pound you earn could well be worth three pounds to the Trust.

Walk booklets are available from the Canal Trust Office at 1 Riveredge, Framilode, Glos. GL2 7LH - please state the number required. Please note that they are not being circulated with the Trow this year, in order to save costs and to have an advance indication of the number of walkers on the day.

DAVID H BOAKES

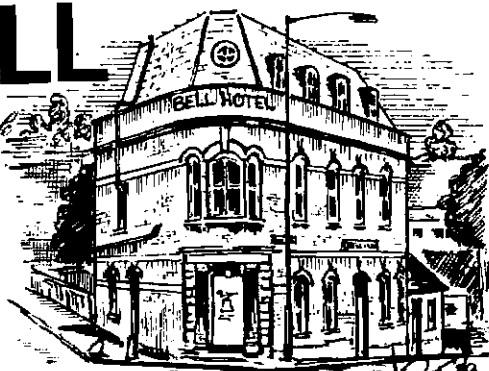
# THE BELL

*Wallbridge Upper Lock*

*STROUD*

*Headquarters of  
S-T & S.C.T. Ltd.*

*(Western Branch)*



*The Pub on the Cut*

## Boats on the Cut

It was pleasing last year to report on the success of the trip boats which operated on the Wallbridge pound during the summer months. Unfortunately, due to construction work on the new bypass, it will be impossible to repeat this year.

The good news for 1987 however is that we plan to operate from two points on the canals, at Bowbridge and Ryeford. The first departure point will be above Bowbridge Lock and passengers will be able to travel along the recently cleared section towards Griffin Lock and back. The second stretch of canal, will be at Ryeford on the section which has been dredged by the M.S.C. team. Trips commence on Easter Sunday and will run every Sunday throughout the summer and into the autumn.

We are keen to involve as many people as possible this year with the running of our boats, both members and non members. Crews can expect a pleasant Sunday afternoon with the added bonus of giving pleasure to the people of Stroud (and beyond). And now more than ever the trip boats can provide a valuable source of income.

Why not contact one of the organisers to offer your help? They will be pleased to give further details to potential crew members as well as future customers!

RYEFORD SECTION: Richard Attwood.  
(Brimscombe 885057)

BOWBRIDGE SECTION: Tony Jones  
(Stroud 2915)

### The Clothiers Arms

1 Bath Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire

#### Free House

Resident Proprietors

Luciano & Aline Magalotti

Telephone Stroud | 04536 | 3801





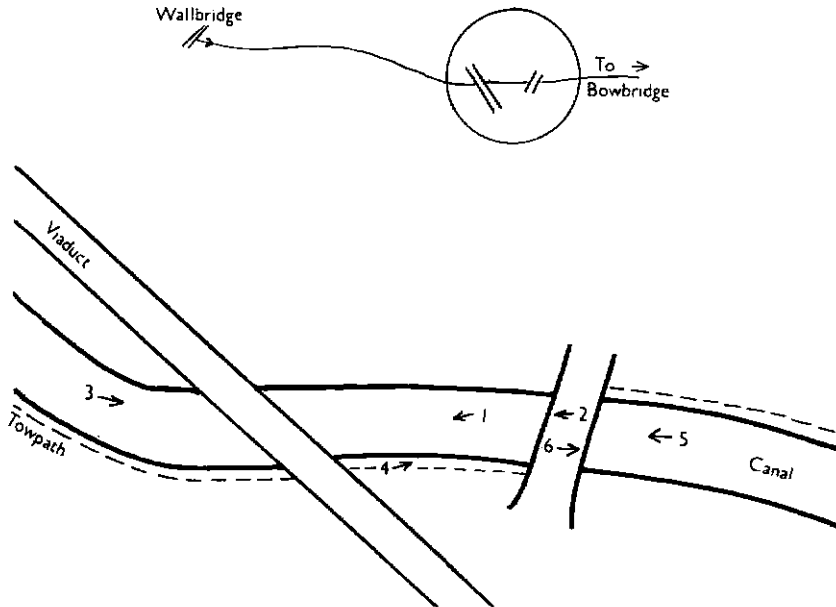
## Road Works

The objective of our Trust is to restore navigation between the River Thames and River Severn, utilising where possible the historic routes of the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal.

Unfortunately there is one small section of the Thames & Severn Canal which will not be utilised - it is being infilled as part of the new Stroud Bypass scheme. Although not all bad (we do have outline planning permission for the diversion of the canal to incorporate a marina), it is still sad to see this part of the historic route disappear.

For those who cannot watch developments for themselves, and in order to record the changes for posterity, the next few pages feature photographs taken in March around the infilled section.

The plans below show the location and the position from which each photograph was taken. The first photograph is reprinted from the last Trow and was taken from the trip boat which was operating during the summer of 1986. The canal will eventually be diverted around the other side of the viaduct. The new road will use the same arch as the canal through the structure.



1



2







## Bowbridge Days

I was born at Bread Street in January 1911. Living at Bowbridge from the age of seven, a stone's throw away from the canal, it was, naturally a source of great interest and entertainment to me. In those days, of course, it was still a canal which was being used for the purpose for which it was constructed - supplying the many adjacent mills with coal and commodities. It was therefore kept in quite good order to warrant an easy passage for the barges. This meant it was also in good order for various aquatic pursuits, such as swimming, diving, fishing, punting and canoeing, and on rare occasions, skating.



'Just Fooling' Ralph, Burb, Frank, Jack, Jim & Dick.

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From the age of about fifteen, five of us boys who had grown up together, Eddie, Berber, Dick, Jim and I, were lucky enough to be allowed to use an area of a field at the end of Orchard & Peer's builders yard, halfway between Bowbridge and the railway viaduct. This area sloped quite steeply down to the canal. It was at a point where the canal rounded a bend and the water was extra deep. Here we built a diving board, and kept a punt and canoe moored under the willows. This was, of course, on the private side of the canal. One of the party came up with the idea of saving for a bell tent, which was duly accomplished, and was the first of four acquired during the period. We camped out there every weekend from April until well into September for about eight years.

On Sunday mornings we had great fun cooking our own breakfast on a camp fire. According to the season, some mornings we rose early, and collected from known fields, lovely fresh mushrooms. Eddie's car was necessary for this venture. Sometimes the amount collected was so large that we were able to supply our girlfriends' families with enough for their breakfasts as well. This was not always taken in good spirit, as it meant waking them up in the very early hours. After the delivery round, it was back to the bell tent, with all hands preparing breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausages and mushrooms, washed down with large drinks of tea. I shall always remember those breakfasts - delicious!



'Balancing' Jim and Frank, June 1929.

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At this point I must mention Toby, the black and white wire haired terrier belonging to Eddie. He always turned up at the tent at the appropriate time on Sundays, but only Sundays, for breakfast. This was the more remarkable as his home was about two miles away.

Toby was an expert water rat catcher. It was intriguing to take him on ratting expeditions. The method employed was to walk with him along the towpath side of the canal, and follow a few paces behind him. The rats were quite numerous, and we did not have to go far before Toby literally 'tiptoed' and sniffed the air. Having decided on a certain spot in the bank near the water's edge, he would make

a determined pounce. It took only seconds for him to decide if the rat had gone to ground or taken to the water. If the latter, Toby would come back on to the towpath and scan the water at that point. He knew from experience that no rat could swim the complete width to the opposite bank under water, the most successful of them breaking water some three or four feet from the opposite bank. Toby was by then well back on the towpath and ready to take a running jump into the water, and swim flat out until he passed the rat, completely ignoring it. Then he would turn to face it, so that the rat swam literally straight into his jaws - end of rat.

Some Sunday mornings, word got round of a water polo game in the full pound at Bowbridge Lock. We always managed enough swimmers for two teams. The gates of the lock acted as the goals, and I remember this being great fun, especially as we were watched by a considerable crowd of locals.

George, a long lanky youth, but not a member of our group, was a great swimmer and diver. He was the only boy of that era who dared to dive off the bridge parapet of the original Bowbridge into roughly four feet of water, with a nasty muddy bottom. Harold, his brother, another lanky youth, never learned to swim, but could successfully dive across the width of the canal where it narrowed into the lock entrance. On one occasion, he made one of his dives and disappeared for what seemed like an age. This caused some alarm. Eventually a hand appeared up the side and Harold pulled himself out, looking like a ghost. He came back over to us, and no one could get a word out of him for several minutes. He was eventually able to tell us that he had dived too deeply, and had gone up the sluice hole which led to the gate which filled the pound. It is easy to imagine what a state he must have been in, having to turn round and claw his way back to the light and up the side to the top and fresh air.

Having the canal so near meant that we were nearly all swimmers in varying degrees of ability, Berber and Eddie being members of the Stroud Swimming Club who held their galas at the Wallbridge section of the canal. They won several cups. Eddie was a builder's son and in contact with many foremen of his father's business on various building sites. These men were quite generous in giving him bottles of very potent and various home made wines. These duly arrived at the tent and were mixed in the swimming cups, then passed round for copious draughts with the obvious results - gaiety at night and thick heads in the morning.

There was also another pursuit, not solely connected with the canal, but in which it played its part. This was pear scrumping. The method entailed early rising by the five of us, and using the punt which came in useful for this venture. This was because the farm house, our destination, was at Bagpath, a short distance away from the canal. The method of obtaining the pears from the tree, which was very near to a window of the farmhouse, was for three of us to climb the tree and pick a very 'shakeable' position in it, the other two ready underneath with bags. We then awaited the arrival of a heavy goods train up the G.W.R. towards Chalford, which is a steep gradient and necessitated the use of two engines. It was well known in those days of steam that the effort by the engines of pulling the

heavy load sounded something like "Damn and bother Chalford Bottom" repeated continuously. It can be imagined that this loud noise, when opposite the farmhouse, was ideal for the shaking of the branches. This continued whilst the noise lasted. The two members of the party left under the tree immediately started to fill the bags with delicious pears and the three up the tree scuttled down as quickly as possible to join in. I have often thought since, how puzzled the farmer must have been at the disappearance of his pears year after year.



Left: Burb with his Swimming Cups. Frank on the right.  
Right: Frank and Jim, 1926.

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This very enjoyable routine continued until, one after another, we succumbed to the charm of the opposite sex and marriage. It can be said, fairly, that the canal in those days was the main artery of this very enjoyable part of our lives.

In my old age, I do occasionally walk the section of canal from Wallbridge to Bowbridge, and I find it very pleasing and commendable that efforts are being made for its reclamation.

FRANK EDGEWORTH



# Membership Matters

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:-

Brian G. Arthur	Cricklade, Wilts.
Mr. N. Bird	Cirencester, Glos.
Mr. & Mrs. L. V. Burley	Kidlington, Oxon.
Mr. T. J. Ede	Chipping Sodbury, Avon.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Greenslade	St. Leonards, Exeter.
Mr. D. V. Griggs	Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.
Mr. D. M. Goodchap	Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.
Mr. R. B. Halliday	Marlborough, Wilts.
Mr. P. D. Hingley	Faversham, Kent.
Mr. C. J. Jones	Tumley, Bath, Avon.
Mrs. J. C. Lavender-Freddy	Cricklade, Wilts.
Miss R. Mundy	Cheltenham, Glos.
Mr. R. Plenty	Stroud, Glos.
Miss B. M. Pullen	Meophan, Gravesend, Kent.
Ms. D. Salisbury	Kings Stanley, Glos.
Miss L. A. Saunders	Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wilts.
Mr. J. L. Shaw	Nailsworth, Glos.
Mr. M. K. Smith	Stroud, Glos.
Mr. J. A. Weston	Stroud, Glos.
Mr. V. Williams	Stroud, Glos.
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Williamson	Dursley, Glos.

## R E W A R D

### STOLEN FROM THE TRUST

in December 1986, from Eastington

Three Chain saws:

Pioneer Model PSIS x 28" Engine No. 214441  
 Pioneer Model P285 x 16" Engine No. 0372037  
 Frontier Model FB35VIP x 16" Engine No. 123A

12th February 1987, from Ryeford

Two Chain saws:

Danarm Model 193SS Engine No. 910003  
 Danarm Model 136 Mark 3 x 16" Engine No. 18730

Have you been offered a second hand chain saw?

A reward will be paid for information leading to the recovery of the above items and conviction of the thief or thieves.

Information to the Secretary, Gloucester 740525

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

My interest in the Trust's work was born from a recent exploration of the restored portal of the Sapperton Tunnel whilst on holiday in the Cotswolds. For some time I have had a keen interest in canals, not only those still in use but also abandoned and those currently being restored.

Following a recent enquiry to find out if 'guided tours' of the S.T. & S. towpaths were possible, mainly to find out more of the on-site history of the canal, I was informed that tours/outings had been conducted in 1985 but nothing of the like had occurred in 1986. Perhaps I could possibly stir some interest for 1987.

Although I live some distance away - in Kent - I would welcome the opportunity of being involved in an 'active weekend in the country'. I wonder if members and friends of the Trust would be interested!

BRENDA PULLEN  
Gravesend, Kent.

Mr. B. Kirner, a Trust member from Wolverhampton has drawn our attention to a letter which was written to the "C.T.C. Gazette" which is the Journal of the Cyclists Touring Club. The letter was written in March 1951 and is reproduced below.

Dear Sir,

About a quarter of a century ago the Tunnel House at Coates was a C.T.C. appointment. My wife and I found it I recollect, after a goodly search, by negotiating a tangle of muddy footpaths, the only person encountered being a postman.

But it was well worth the effort. Bed and Breakfast cost 5s for the two of us - and what a breakfast! Tea at 9d a head was laid out on a table in a walled garden ablaze with flowers, and everything was home produced: honey, slab of butter, home-made bread, salads both green and fruit, strawberry jam, and dainty cakes to fill in any odd corners.

The inn was kept by two charming middle-aged sisters who regaled us with tales of the weed-covered canal and tunnel. I believe they mentioned that the original canal was constructed by the Romans.

The atmosphere and homeliness of Tunnel House made it one of our best-remembered appointments among the hundreds we have sampled during our thirty-three years of wheeling

J. W. DAWSON  
Grays, Essex.

## Grand Draw

As a further step towards more public involvement in the Trust's activities, this year the Grand Draw was made by the Chairman of Stroud District Council, Councillor Roy P. Nicholas, in the Ballroom of the Stroud Subscription Rooms.

The large audience had been drawn (excuse the pun) to listen to our Secretary/Manager give one of his illustrated talks on the canals -this time their "Past and Future" in the Stroud area.

In his usual style David traced the history, past importance to the district, and place in the future of our project, using slides of old postcards and photographs from his extensive collection. Whilst supplying facts and figures he also amused the audience with his many anecdotes. Margaret Boakes and Celia Taylor used their charms to extract donations and sell draw tickets until the moment when Councillor Nicholas spun the drum to extract the winners' tickets.

Richard Attwood brought his sales stand, Bruce Hall produced a photographic display, and Bill Evill revealed his catering talents with the refreshments.

The prizewinners listed below indicate the national interest in the project and an even spread between members and friends of the Trust. A highly successful evening for all concerned, and the Draw produced a profit of £1850 towards our restoration programme.

£250	David Folland, Bratton, Wilts.	TICKET NO.	04862
£150	H. Everett, Cheltenham, Glos.		28513

### £10 PRIZE WINNERS

R. Jefferies, Wotton-Under-Edge, Glos.	09646
Phillip Spanjer & Co. Ltd., London NW2.	05910
J. Netherton, Parr, Cornwall.	12345
J. Cocknell, Downend, Horsley, Nailsworth, Glos.	09980
A. Walkley, Cashes Green, Stroud.	46854
Andrea Kingscott, Hardwicke, Glos.	45096
R. B. Frost, Hatley St. George, Sandy, Beds.	10220
M. Scuffam, Durkar, Wakefield, W. Yorks.	15414
R. S. Northfield, Mitcheldean, Glos.	21626
A. Porter, Southend on Sea, Essex.	28670

# Sales

The following items are available by post from our Sales Manager, Richard Attwood, 7 Hidcote Close, Eastcombe, Stroud, Glos., GL6 7EF. Please add 40p per order to cover postage and packing for any value under £10. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "S. T & S. C. T. Ltd"

Trust Notelets (Pack of 8 with envelopes) Local canal views	£0.60
A Canal Walk Through Stroud	£1.25
Trust Tea Towels (show several views of canals)	£1.85
Trust Key Fobs	£0.50
Trust comb in case	£0.30
Trust Keyring with penknife or scissors or clippers	£0.75
Trust Bookmarks	£0.30
The Flower of Gloster (E. Temple Thurston)	£11.95
Randwick and Roundabout (Evelyn Pollard)	£5.95
Village Heritage (Miss Pinnell and the children of Sapperton School)	£10.95
Road Travel & Transport in Gloucestershire	£5.95
Tudor Gloucestershire	£5.95
Cotswold Churches	£4.50
The Aeronauts (L.T.C. Rolt)	£5.95
Birds of Gloucestershire (C.M. Swaine)	£8.95
Gloucester Docks (Hugh Conway-Jones)	£4.95
British Canals (Charles Hadfield)	£12.50
And last but definitely not least, The Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canals Towpath Guide (Handford & Viner)	£5.95

## SPRING SALE

In addition to the usual Sales Items, the following books are on special offer, subject to availability.

British Canals (Charles Hadfield)	£9.00
World Canals (Charles Hadfield)	£16.00
Bread Upon The Waters (David Blagrove)	£8.00
A Hill Called Bredon (Fred Archer)	£3.00
The Changing River (Anthony Burton)	£7.00
Devizes In Old Picture Postcards	£3.00
Observers Book of Canals	£2.00
A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Hampshire & I.O.W.	£1.00



## Dates for your Diary

APRIL 1987	Sun	5th	Western Branch Work party
	Mon	6th	Western Branch Meeting
	Sun	12th	Western Branch Work party
	Tues	14th	Thames End Meeting
	Thur	16th	Western Branch Noggin & Natter
	Sun	19th	Western Branch Work party
	Sat	25th	Thames End Work party
	Sun	26th	Thames End Work party
MAY 1987	Sun	3rd	Western Branch Work party
	Mon	4th	Western Branch Meeting
	Sun	10th	Western Branch Work party
	Tues	12th	Thames End Meeting
	Sun	17th	Western Branch Work party
	Thur	21st	Western Branch Noggin & Natter (hopefully to include Magic Lantern Show - ring Clint Taylor for details)
	Sun	24th	Western Branch Work party
	Sat	30th	Thames End Work party
	Sun	31st	Thames End Work party
	Sun	31st	Western Branch Work party
JUNE 1987	Mon	1st	Western Branch Meeting
	Sun	7th	Western Branch Work party
	Tues	9th	Thames End Meeting
	Sun	14th	Western Branch Work party
	Thur	18th	Western Branch Noggin & Natter
	Sun	21st	Western Branch Work party
	Sat	27th	Thames End Work party
	Sun	28th	Thames End Work party
Sun	28th	Western Branch Work party	

WESTERN BRANCH MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of each month from 7.00pm in the lounge bar of The Bell at Wallbridge in Stroud. Any members and friends are welcome.

WESTERN BRANCH 'NOGGIN & NATTER' SOCIAL EVENINGS also at The Bell on the third Thursday of each month from 7.30pm. A free buffet is provided and once again all members and friends are welcome. Past Social Evenings have included Slide Shows, Boat Trips and Barbecues.

THAMES END BRANCH MEETINGS are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 8.00pm at The Red Lion at Cricklade. Any members and friends are most welcome - come and find out what we are doing.

THAMES END WORK PARTY is centered on Cerney Wick Lock. New workers are always welcome on the last weekend of every month. Once again please ring for details.

WESTERN BRANCH WORK PARTY meets every Sunday. In order to remain flexible there is no published timetable. Please ring for up to date details.

BACK COVER: Ryeford Double Lock, October 1986.

(Photo: Peter Chadwick)

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