

# £1m restoration grant at risk

## SHEWSBURY & NEWPORT

A NATIONAL LOTTERY grant of £1m to restore the original Thomas Telford warehouses and canal basin at the historic junction of the Shrewsbury and Newport canals hangs in the balance, as the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust appeals for help in a last-ditch attempt to raise a further £500,000.

The warehouses and basin were used to transship goods between boats on the Newport Canal and the Shrewsbury Canal. Having been out of use for some years, they were scheduled for renovation and conversion to a visitor centre and community centre – and one day a centrepiece of the restored canals.

A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1m received Stage 1 approval – which meant it had been agreed in principle, the money had been earmarked for the project, and £72,000 of initial development money was immediately released for planning work. However, the full grant (as usual with HLF money) required



‘match funding’ or £500,000 from other sources.

The good news is that £90,000 has been raised. The bad news is that, having applied to over 100 grant-making bodies with relatively little success (one £100,000 grant they had been advised to apply for was turned down), SNCT still has over £400,000 to raise before the deadline later this year; otherwise the HLF grant will be deferred.

SNCT is pursuing other sources, but is also appealing to society members and waterways supporters to chip in with pledges of support – which will only be called in if the target can be reached. See [sncanal.org.uk](http://sncanal.org.uk) or call 07972 016322 to help.