



S&N News

4/2009

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Issue 35

The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust is a Registered Charity, no. 1088706 and a Registered Company, limited by guarantee, no. 4075920.

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Excavation at Wappenshall (see page 6)

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Items for S&News, including ‘Letters to the Editor’, to Steve Bean (details opposite) or news@sncanal.org.uk

The views expressed by contributors to S&News do not necessarily represent the views or policies of The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust.

If you would prefer to receive S&News as an Adobe Acrobat (pdf file) attachment to an email, please email ‘news@sncanal.org.uk’. This version will be in colour and received earlier than the printed version.

Dates for Your Diary

- ◆ **Thursday 21st January 2010 – Trustees’ Meeting**, 7.30 p.m, Shrewsbury.
Please contact the Secretary to confirm date and location if you would like to attend. Members may be asked to withdraw for certain confidential items.
- ◆ **Thursday 18th March 2010 – Trustees’ Meeting**, 7.30 p.m, Newport.
Please contact the Secretary to confirm date and location if you would like to attend. Members may be asked to withdraw for certain confidential items.
- ◆ **Saturday 20th March 2010 – AGM, Lunch & Presentation**
Full details will be issued with the next S&News.
- ◆ **Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd May 2010 - Norbury Junction May Bank Holiday Rally**
This will follow a similar format to 2009. Chris Keane will be the harbourmaster, and Brian Nelson is coordinating the trip boat. Please make a note in your diary, and volunteers will be welcomed! Boaters should contact Chris (Tel: 01939 234714; *email*: ckeaneuk@aol.com) to book a Rally space.

Membership

We are very pleased to welcome as members:

John Newnham of Shrewsbury; John Williamson of Newport; Philip & Susan Woods of Shrewsbury; Bev & Patrick McCarthy & Family of Telford; Andy & Jayne Moseley & Family of Telford; Susan Tappin & Family of Wolverhampton; Steven & April Plimmer & Family of Shrewsbury; Richard & Gloria Carter of Church Stretton; Alan Lockett of Ellesmere; Ms Rogerson Mr Vickers & Family of Whitchurch; Ivan & Sarah Grove & Family of Market Drayton; Ruth & Walter Beaton & Family of Ellesmere; Mike & Sue Bateson of Wem; Peter & Helen Richards of Shrewsbury; David Deakin & Lynda Simpson of Telford; David See of Fareham, Hants; Martin Ruston & Kay Pritchett & Family of Telford; John & Judy Adamson of Telford; Salop Surfacing Ltd of Shrewsbury; Ira & Carolyn of Stafford; Martin & Maria Hutton & Family of Walton On Thames, Surrey.

Become a Trustee

If you like to become a Trustee, or know someone you think has skills and talents that would benefit the Trust, then why not stand for election at the forthcoming AGM. Nominations can be made using the form below.

THE SHREWSBURY & NEWPORT CANALS TRUST NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION AS TRUSTEE

I (*full name*)
being a member of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust, nominate
..... (*full name*)
for election to the Board of Trustees.

Signed (*proposer*) Date

CONSENT OF MEMBER NOMINATED

I (*full name*),
being a Member of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust signify my
willingness to serve as a Trustee, if so elected.

Signed (*nominee*) Date

Tel: Email:

**Nominations must reach the Secretary, 4 Arscott, Pontesbury,
Shrewsbury, SY5 0XP by 6th March 2010.**

In brief...

Wappenshall Architects

When the last S&News went to print, the Trust was on the verge of appointing architects to provide services in respect of the Wappenshall buildings.

The firm appointed is Aedas Building Consultancy Group. Aedas have worldwide offices and employ over 700 people in the UK, in offices which include Birmingham, Huddersfield and Shrewsbury with which the Trust will be working.

Work has already been commenced on the Options Appraisal and the Trust hopes to be able to consider the recommended way forward for developing the buildings in the near future.

George Harold Lewis

18 November 1918 – 28 September 2009

George was an enthusiastic supporter of the trust and attended all AGMs. He was born in Hadley only a short distance from the Trench branch of the canal and learned to swim in its waters. He often recalled cycle rides and fishing trips along the canal, especially at Wappenshall "wide-hole". He was one of the last living witnesses to the operation of the Trench Incline in the late 20's/ early 30's. The world will be a poorer place for his passing.



Birthday Donation

Member Nicola Roscoe was 60 back in the summer and instead of receiving presents requested donations for the Trust. As a result the wonderful sum of £630 has been added to the Trust's coffers. Many thanks Nicola; and if you need an example to follow the Treasurer will be pleased to hear from you!

New Arrival at Wappenshall

We were surprised to find a baby Owl in the warehouse at Wappenshall .We contacted the Shropshire Barn Owl Trust who came and weighed it, measured it and fitted a ring to its leg; and were surprised that it had been born so late in the year. They were able to tell us that it was a female. You tell the sex of a Barn Owl by markings on the underside of its wing. As soon as the Owl was caught it lay totally still. The barn Owl was nearly fully grown and will have left by now. It has to find its own roost and if the weather is bad can only survive for about four days. It needs to eat about six



mice a day, which is why I don't want any weed killer etc used on site. It was a real privilege to see such a beautiful bird at close quarters.

Eric Cox

Excavation at Wappenshall

Sunday 11th October saw the excavation of the area of the stop-gate (including the exhumation of the gate in question – see cover photo) at the junction.

The Shropshire Fire and Rescue service will soon be filling the excavated section of canal, if the heavens haven't done it first!



'Picnic' at Wappenshall

Sunday 11th October also saw about eighty-five members attend a 'picnic' held at Wappenshall.

The photo shows the display set up in the Romney building, where recently the previously, somewhat hazardous, vehicle inspection pit has been totally filled in and concreted over.



Open Day at Norbury Junction

Norbury Wharf Ltd held an open day at which the Trust was invited to display. This was the last event of our season and on the last day of October - but the weather was kind, despite a little overnight rain. It was good to see boats moving up and down the canal and a general quiet bustle, after the breach further north at Shebdon which had seen Norbury cut off as a through route.



Our display has attended several functions throughout 2009 - including Castlefields Community Day, Newport Carnival and Longdon-upon-Tern Fete: it is reassuring to find that many visitors ask now how we are progressing – rather than 'what canal?!'

The display will be present at several community functions in 2010, but if you know of somewhere that would be appropriate please let Tam Hazan know.

Letters to the Editor

Pronunciation of Wappenshall

Dear Editor

I was interested in Peter Brown's quest for the true pronunciation of the name of the site of the canal warehouse. Should it be "Wappenshall", "Wappenshall" or "Wappens-hall"?

When I first moved to Wellington 44 years ago I taught lads who all said that they lived in WappenSHall which I thought must be a rather large village. Since I've become more familiar with the place I now wonder where they all actually lived. Anyway WappenSHall has been good enough for me ever since.

Like most English place names the actual origin of the name is obscured by the mists of time. I have seen old maps recording Wappens Hall and I have one in front of me at the moment from 1826 with Wappingsall on it.

Ekwall's Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names records Whatmundeshal in 1228; the origin probably being from Hwaetmunde's HALH or HALL. To complicate matters further the Old English HALH could also simply denote a "defined piece of ground, a piece of flat land in a river bend, an enclosure or an open place in a wood."

Perhaps if our friends from the other side of Offa's Dyke had managed to keep out the successive hoards of immigrants from across the North Sea we would still have a language whose place names are usually easy to translate.

Let's stick to WappenSHall!

Yours sincerely, Tom Heaton (Heahtun - OE homestead situated on high ground)

~~~~~  
Steve,

Another attractive and interesting issue.

According to 'The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Placenames' by Eilert Ekwall, the earliest mention of the name Wappenshall is in 1228 when it was referred to as 'Whatmundeshal' which he interpreted as 'Hwaetmund's Halh' or 'Hwaetmund's Hall'. However, 'hall' meaning manor house (etc) is not common in place names. Rather more common is 'halh', meaning 'a corner, a secret place, cave, closet, recess'.

However, the derivation has little relevance, as pronunciation can change over time. What matters is how local people say it.

Best wishes, Peter Brown



Reference the pronunciation of Wappenshall can I add my “penny worth”?

As a Wellington lad who used to cycle down to Wappenshall wide hole as a boy and then having lived in the next village to Wappenshall – Preston upon the Weald Moors, for over thirty years I’ve always pronounced Wappenshall as WHOPINSHALL.

I’ve recently asked many people how they pronounce Wappenshall and all agree with me, but that’s not to say I’m right!

Going on, many people pronounce the old county name of Salop as SAL-OP, many locals pronounce it as SOL-UP (as does Ray Nickless in his book & More Thoughts & Memories of a Shropshire Lad’). People also refer going to Shrewsbury as going to Solup.

Not much to do with canals – but interesting I hope.

Sincerely, Mike Edwardes.



### ***Wappenshall Church***

Dave Jones of Trench, Telford contacted me with further details of Wappenshall chapel.

He says that he understood that the chapel from Wappenshall was dismantled and rebuilt at Donnington Flour Mill which stood beside the canal at Wrockwardine Wood. This mill was owned by a Mr Bullock, who was one of the last users of the canal and the Trench Inclined Plane, which was last used in 1921. Dave believes that the chapel was finally demolished in only the last 4/5 years.

A little research on the internet has revealed some further information about the chapel, although this is clearly not the full story as some details conflict. This suggests that a ‘tin’ chapel stood at the bottom of the Wrockwardine Wood Inclined Plane, at what is now the end of Smith Crescent and behind the houses in Furnace Lane. A source suggests this was dismantled during the 1980’s.

As for the flour mill, between 1818 and 1821 a partnership was formed to mill, bake, and deal in grain, and a four-storeyed brick steam mill was built in 1818 on the north bank of the Shrewsbury Canal. Known as Donnington Wood Mill, closed in the 1970s. The buildings largely still exist, having been converted into flats. The following photo shows the mill and canal around 1890.



Can any one add to the story of the Wappenshall chapel and its subsequent life in Wrockwardine Wood / Donnington?

# SHREWSBURY & NEWPORT CANALS TRUST

## Membership Application

|                                 |                              |         |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| The annual membership fees are: | Individual Membership        | £8.50   |
|                                 | Family Membership*           | £10.00  |
|                                 | Life Membership              | £100.00 |
| (please circle category)        | Youth Membership (under 18)  | £3.50   |
|                                 | Group / Corporate Membership | £20.00  |

Supplement on all annual rates: for EU £2, for rest of the world: £4.

\*Family membership is for people living at the same address: only one copy of newsletters and other material is sent per family membership. Only the person indicated as "applicant" below will be entitled to vote.

I/We wish to join the membership of Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust in the category indicated above. I/We also wish to make an additional donation of £\_\_\_\_\_. I/We enclose a payment of £\_\_\_\_\_ (cheques made payable to "Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust").

I/We hereby agree, if elected, to be bound by all the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust (copies available on request).

I/We further agree to my/our membership details being recorded on computer, solely for the Trust's organisational purposes.

Signed:.....Date:.....

### Gift Aid Declaration – please sign if you pay tax

I want all donations (includes membership subscriptions) I make from the date of this declaration to be treated as Gift Aid Donations (you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax reclaimed on your donation(s)). I will inform you if I cease to pay tax.

Signed:.....Date:.....

Forename

Surname

DoB (if under 18)

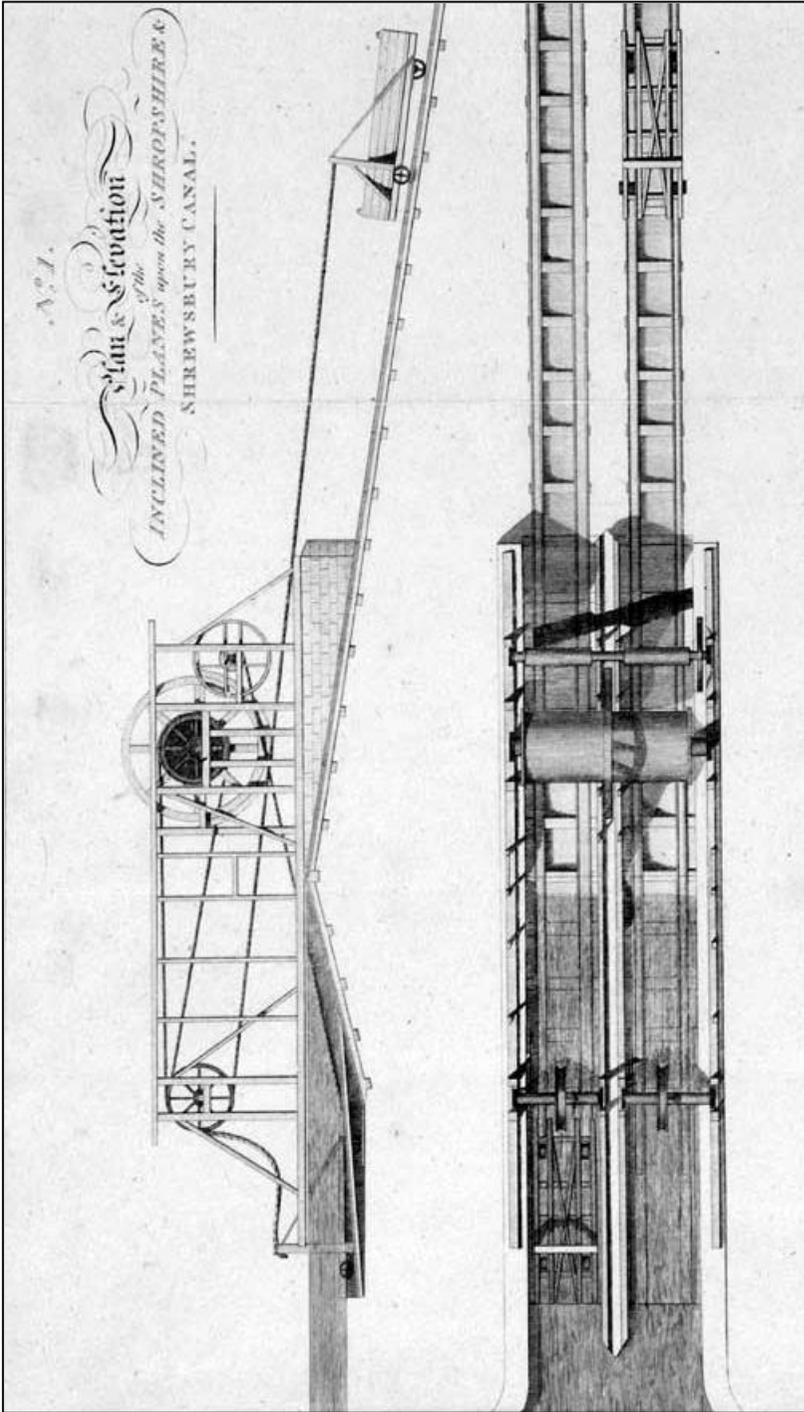
Applicant:

Others:  
(family  
membership)

Address: .....  
.....  
..... (Postcode).....

Telephone number: ..... E-mail: .....

**Please post with your remittance to:** The Membership Secretary,  
The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust, Brookfield, Wroxeter, Shrewsbury, SY5 6PH



**No.1 Plan & Elevation of the Inclined Planes upon the Shropshire & Shrewsbury Canal. (IGMT: SS/MT 42)**

Drawn for Mr. Telford by W. Jones S.I. Neele sc Strand