

# Wappenshall restoration project threatened by funding shortfall

THE Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust has made an urgent appeal for help to keep afloat a £1.5 million project to restore the warehouses and basin at Wappenshall.

A Heritage Lottery Fund grant will contribute £1 million towards this, leaving the SNCT with another £500,000 to find.

So far £70,000 has been raised from other funding sources and a direct appeal to members has added a further £20,000 of pledged funds, with more coming in every day.

The fundraising team have studied more than 200 grant-funding bodies to check eligibility and applications have been made to over 100 of these, but so far with little return. One major local authority grant of £100,000, that SNCT was advised to bid for and assured would be successful, has been turned down.

A spokesman said: "We are still pursuing other funding sources and, as mentioned above, we have appealed to our 1250 members to pledge their support – if even half of them pledge



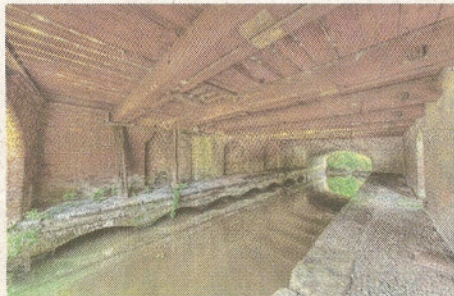
**Wappenshall Wharf: a funding crisis could jeopardise restoration plans.** PHOTOS: RICHARD KNISELY-MARPOLE

something, this will make a significant dent in the amount we need to raise.

"We have a deadline later in 2015 to raise the full amount of match funding needed, but if we do not reach our target by then, the pledges will not be called in, so members will know that if they make a pledge and we do call it in, the fundraising has been successful."

So far the SNCT has had a HLF Round 1 payment of £72,000 to pay for all the preparatory work required and then has to apply for the balance of its £1 million grant. The plans are all now in place but because of the funding shortfall, the trust has had to put off making this application.

There is now a real possibility that the Wappenshall project will be deferred by the HLF, so if anyone has any idea where the SNCT can obtain the match funding required, please contact chairman Bernie Jones, details at [www.sncanal.org.uk](http://www.sncanal.org.uk) or call 07971 016322.



The canal passes under the wharf.