

## The Civil Engineers' Club Walking Weekend June 2025

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June:** Twenty-two walkers met in the afternoon at The Cotswold Canal Trust (CCT) Visitor Centre, and were welcomed by Lisa Mant and John Newton who gave an introductory talk about the Cotswold Canal Trust and the restoration of the canal. The party was then split into two groups. The first group taking a return boat trip on "Perseverance" from Wallbridge to Bowbridge with Peter Rogol and Chris Berry. The other group taking a short walk in the other direction with John Newton to see a restored section of the canal before swapping over at Wallbridge. On the boat trip it was possible to see where the canal had been diverted to accommodate the realignment of the A419 road when it had been widened.

In the evening, we had an enjoyable meal at Sorrento's Restaurant, Stroud.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June:** Our CCT guides, Mike Howarth, Andrew Franks and David Le Bourgeois met twenty-four walkers at Stonehouse Court by the canal in the morning in bright sunshine for a 3-mile walk. We split into two groups and headed downstream, crossing over a bridge to follow the towpath, passing through Ocean Bridge under the railway, and on to Bond's Mill, where a temporary bridge has been built to provide access whilst a new permanent lift bridge is installed. We saw the Newtown, Blunder and Pike locks, the dock, John Robinson lock (was Dock lock), the Oldbury Aqueduct where the Oldbury Brook is culverted under the canal, Westfield Lock and bridge, all of which are being renovated by volunteers. We took a route through Churchend and the fields back to Stonehouse Court Hotel before driving to Fromebridge Mill for lunch

After lunch we drove to Saul Junction for a guided circular walk along the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal before crossing the swing bridge over the canal to follow the towpath to Walk Bridge, continuing along the side of the canal and River Frome and seeing where the canal has been filled in and will be diverted into the river. After crossing the river, we returned to Stroud Junction through the fields, completing our 2-mile walk.

In the evening Barney Bruce gave us an excellent presentation about the Cotswold Canal Trust at Stonehouse Court Hotel before dinner. The dinner ended with thanks and a toast to Tony Barber for not only coordinating the Walking Group but, on the occasion, also planning the walking weekend in Stroud.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June:** We met at Ship Inn, Framilode for a circular 3 mile walk along the abandoned section of the canal which originally connected Saul Junction to the River Severn, we then followed the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal towpath and took a path

across the fields to Ebley on the bank of the River Severn, returning to the Ship Inn for lunch. Thanks to Peter Ahm for leading the walk.

Thanks to Lisa Mant and John Newton of the Cotswold Canal Trust for making the event such a success and to everyone who attended.