

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Nutshell Bridge
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Nutshell Bridge, one of the places on the Canals Trail. This is one of a series of recordings made up of local people's experience that you can listen to at different places along the Cotswolds canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	As you walk between The Ocean and Nutshell Bridge you will see, on the opposite side of the canal, Stonehouse Court Hotel, the oldest building in the area and originally the manor of Stonehouse. You will also see St Cyrs Church and its extended graveyard. Iris Capps a local historian and amateur painter describes here the contrast between the church and Nutshell Bridge.
Iris Capps	Nutshell Bridge and cottage and house have a lot of red brick, which is local brick, in their construction. And when you look, if you've a good clear sunny day, the red shines out and then you've got the Cotswold Stone with which St Cyrs church is built so that is very mellow and warm and the two somehow work nicely together.
Narrator	Nutshell Bridge and Nutshell House are popular landmarks in the area. In fact when Stonehouse achieved status as a town it included an image of the bridge and house on its sign, which can be found as you drive into the town. The year the bridge was built and later restored can be found on an engraved stone set into the bridge, which we challenge you to find. Although a very attractive bridge, Peter Burris remembers a time when it was used for a very unattractive purpose.
Peter Burris (need permission)	I wonder one particular Christmas, a person got on the top of the nutshell bridge and jumped off thinking he was going to drown himself and he hit the ice and killed himself instead.
Narrator	We are unsure when this sad story took place but it may have been in 1962, when particularly harsh winter left boats frozen in their moorings across the canal system of Britain. It is reported that this was one of the reasons given for the decision to formally cease commercial operations on the canals system.
Music	Fade In
Close	Thank you for listening, other recordings are available along the towpath or can be downloaded on our web site www.alongthecotswoldcanal.co.uk
Music	Fade Out