

## Boat trip back to wartime



Winston Churchill and his nurse, alias husband-and-wife team John and Sylvia Sharland, at the VE Day anniversary celebrations at Goytre Wharf

VISITORS to a popular local canal spot were transported back in time by boat last weekend.

Winston Churchill and a selection of wartime military and medical staff joined the fun at

Goytre wharf during a three-day anniversary VE Day celebration.

Organisers estimate thousands turned out for the fun, which included dozens of stalls and activities, as well as boat trips

up and down the canal. Volunteers from the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal trust brought the events to life by dressing up in wartime costumes.

"It was fantastic - better than we expected," said the trust's chairman Chris Morgan.

He added: "The weather wasn't so great on Saturday, although plenty still came, but we were turning them away because the car parks were full."

American generals and naval officers could be seen ferrying delighted visitors up and down the canal in boats festooned in bunting and flags, while on the banks of the canal, hundreds relaxed in the sunshine picnicking and enjoying a musical tribute to the Andrews Sisters.

As well as celebrating VE Day, the aim of the weekend was to raise funds for the canal trust's renovation work at 14 Locks in Newport.

"We're hoping we can raise about £1,000 over the weekend,



GI TODDLERS: Owen Morgan and his brother Lewis behind the wheel of a Jeep

which will pay for two days' work in Newport," said Mr Morgan.

He added: "By next Friday the first boats in 64 years will pass through 14 Locks, thanks to the hard work of volunteers and donations from the public."



Samantha Lloyd and Katie Hurley, both 15, on canal boat Rosie