



# Newsletter

Issue 360

April 2002

## Chairman's Column

### The Newsletter

Another 'bumper' issue of the Newsletter for your consumption. Our Editor must be complimented for putting together such an interesting Newsletter each month. Well done Peter! We are also grateful to Laura's company, the **hjs** group, for continuing to sponsor the production and distribution costs.

Now.....how about other Society members doing their bit. Just the occasional article now and again on where you have been on your travels or, for boat owners, details of work or alterations/refurbishment you have carried out, and your methods.

Shy ... or cannot write an article? ... Don't worry. Just give us the details and we can prepare it for you. After all, that is how the biographies of the rich and famous/infamous are mostly done!

### Refreshments Rota



So far, nobody has volunteered to do the refreshments at our June and July meetings. One of our members has volunteered to cover four months as well as assist in other ways. So come on, please do your bit both for the Society and for your colleagues.

### 'Remus the Narrowboat & His First Adventure'

I am delighted to advise members that Sue Lewis's first children's book (though adults can read it as well) 'Remus the Narrowboat & His First Adventure' has now been published and is on sale on the Society's Sales Stand at £4.99.

Sue has kindly agreed to a contribution to the Society's funds from the sale of each book. Sue is working hard to distribute her book around the waterways network so hopefully you will see copies on your travels. It might be helpful if you could give Sue some feedback on where you see her book.

A full review will follow in the May Newsletter. In the meantime, come on now, buy yourself, your children or your grandchildren a copy (or three) and let us help to make this a 'best seller'.

### Advertising in the Newsletter

This is something we have never tried before (or if we have, it must have been a very long time ago). So, if you have anything you would like to dispose of (other than at the Society's May Auction, of course) why not put a free advert

in the Newsletter. All you have to do is to write out the details and send it to the Editor, Peter Oates.

### 2002 Annual General Meeting

As you will know from our published programme, this year's AGM is scheduled to be held on 6 June. However, it has been realised that there is potentially a problem with that date as it falls within the schools' Whitsun holidays – and your Chairman, Vice-Chairman/Treasurer and Secretary are all likely to be away cruising that week. I think you will agree with my decision that one cannot hold an AGM with all its officers absent. Therefore, at its next meeting the Committee will be considering a change of programme order. More details in the next Newsletter.

### Society Auction – 9 May

Another gentle reminder to look out for items for our Society Auction on 9 May.

### Proposed Crofton Trip

We now have about twenty members who have shown interest in the proposed Society trip to Crofton. We will now start looking at possible dates and a programme. See the next Newsletter for further details.



There is still time to add your name to the list. Please see Ray on the Sales Stand or contact me.

*Paul Herbert*

### BAPS

Although waterways are man-made they provide a great range of natural environments that are inhabited by a huge number of plant and animal species. Waterways, hedgerows, towpaths and even built structures are home to bats, snakes, otters and sponges to name a few!

BW produces BAPs or Biodiversity Action Plans—which are basically plans to look after waterways wildlife and their habitats. For a leaflet explaining BAPs and a postcard please contact the BW customer service centre on 01923 201120 or email [enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk)

*From BW's waterfront magazine Spring/Summer 2002*

## March Meeting

At our March meeting we were entertained by Society members, Ron and Myra Glover, whose talk was entitled 'Elsa leaves France on the Coal Canal and travels on the Rivers Saar, Moselle and Rhine to Holland'. Ron and Myra are no strangers to our programme having previously given us talks on their various exploits on the European waterways, including 'Paris to Switzerland' and 'The Ups and Downs of Belgian Waterways'. On this occasion they gave us an account of their 2001 European travels on board their 42' Dutch steel cruiser 'Elsa'. The journey took them through five different countries and on an amazing variety of waterways. Their expedition was not undertaken as one long cruise, but during the various school holidays last year.

They started on the Coal Canal in France which leads to Saarbrücken in Germany, joining the River Saar. Then through the attractive vine-covered hillsides of the Rivers Saar and Moselle where a detour was made into Luxemburg. Not many people can say they've been to Luxemburg by boat! It was then back along the Moselle to join the great River Rhine at Koblenz. 'Elsa' could only travel down the fast flowing Rhine through Germany passing through the towns of Bonn, Cologne and Dusseldorf. It was interesting to see slides of all the other waterway users from giant cargo vessels and passenger boats, to skiffs and canoes.

Holland was entered along the River IJssel and firstly we were taken on an extensive tour of the eastern side of the country, travelling the small canals that pass through the towns and villages, over the large system of Friesland lakes, and along the main Princes Margriet Canal, the 'M1' of Holland.

Crossing the IJsselmeer was an adventure. We saw how rough it can be in winter and how calm in summer. Now on the western side of Holland, the journey took us from the Naval port of Den Helder in the north through the tourist town of Amsterdam and out of Holland into Belgium.

To return to France meant travelling through the docks of Antwerp, quite an adventure for a 42' vessel, dwarfed by sea-going craft. We were taken on a trip of 1,432 metres up the Ronquieres slope which carries boats in a tank to the summit 68 metres above.

At Charleroi they passed through the centre of a vast steel works and we could just imagine the noise and filth involved with this industry – certainly not a place for stopping!

An interesting event occurred at the end of the trip when they were 'boarded' by a journalist who was writing an article encouraging people to use the River Sambre in Belgium. The article in 'Liberte' contained three photographs of 'Elsa' and her crew, together with an article telling readers about their exploits.

'Elsa' then headed her way back into France to moor awaiting the 2002 boating season.

Just a few 'extras' to this write-up.....

We also heard about mooring problems experienced in various locations on the rivers, where all the obvious places were reserved for the large trip boats. Then there were the automatic locks which opened mysteriously as they approached, with no sign of anybody doing the work, and also those remote controlled locks which the boat crews operated themselves, using a hand control. Then there was the interesting situation at the junction of the Rivers Saar and Moselle which is located on the borders of Germany, France and Luxemburg – which courtesy flag to fly? Solution – 'Elsa' flew all three!!!

Then there were the stories about mooring up (by accident!) amongst 'Nudist Colony' boats on a lake; their visit to an Ice Cream boat, where they gratefully re-stocked their freezer; seeing many remaining traditional boats and we saw slides of many of these beautiful craft under full sail; and not seeing a single tulip in Holland, despite it being Easter!!!

I cannot finish this write-up without referring to Ron & Myra's mode of transport from the UK to wherever there boat is moored at a particular time. They used to travel by car but then there was always the problem of having to travel back to collect the car from wherever they had left 'Elsa' at the end of a cruise. They have solved that problem and now use a motorbike, upon which they manage to stow themselves and all their gear. We then saw what happens when they arrive at 'Elsa'. Ron has cleverly constructed/adapted a demountable hoist which is used to lift the bike onto its cradle on the foredeck, and then dismantled and stowed below. A brilliant solution and as Ron said, done very cheaply compared with the cost of a purpose-made piece of marine equipment.

Thanks to Ron and Myra for sharing with us your extensive travels through Europe last year and for an entertaining evening. We will all look forward to your next talk on your future travels.

*Paul Herbert*

### CONTACTING THE EDITOR

The editor has recently changed his Internet Service Provider (ISP) and as a result has changed his email address to [peter.oates@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.oates@btopenworld.com). Whilst his older email address will still be available for a bit longer, would all members please try to use the newer one. For the time being, the Society's website will remain on the old address but, time allowing, it is hoped to move it within the next couple of months.

*Peter Oates*

## SALISBURY GROUP BOAT TRIP

The IWA Avon and Wilts Branch's Salisbury Group's next 'meeting' will be a boat trip around Christchurch Harbour on Saturday 18 May. The vessel will hold up to 70 people so the Salisbury Group has invited Southampton Canal Society members to join them on this cruise, if anyone would like to join them.

Details are as follows: Meet at 10.30am at Mudeford Quay. The duration of the trip is 1½ hours around Christchurch Harbour and out towards Boscombe Pier. The cost of the boat trip is £5. After the excursion people may wish to partake in a Pub lunch and possibly visit a nearby Nature Reserve in the afternoon.

For details/bookings – please see Jon Van de Geer at our Society's April meeting or 'phone Jon on 01722 412841.

## NEWS FROM THE SALES STAND

### 'Remus the Narrowboat & His First Adventure'

Copies of Sue Lewis's book are now on sale, priced £4.99

### GEOprojects Maps

We now have in stock a limited supply of GEOprojects map of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, which includes the Droitwich Canals. The map retails at £4.00.

### Society Polo Shirts

It has been decided to resurrect the idea of producing Society Polo Shirts so the supplier of our T-shirts and sweat shirts, Jancraft, has been asked for colour samples and costings. More details in the next Newsletter.

## The I.W.A. 24-Hour B.C.N. Challenge Cruise

Held on the weekend nearest to the longest day, this annual event, now in its 10th year will be held on Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd of June.

The challenge, organised by Chris and Helen Davey and ably assisted by a small band of scrutineers, commences precisely at 9:00 am from a choice of venues, Smethwick (Engine Arm Junction with the Old Main Line, or below the Engine Arm on the New Main Line), Wolverhampton Top Lock, Windmill End or Gas Street Basin.

The aims of the challenge are to increase awareness and use of the remaining 100 miles of the Birmingham Canal Navigations and to prove beyond all doubt that people do care about these waterways and are prepared to cruise, if at all possible, every available arm, loop and basin as well as the more popular through routes. The I.W.A. statement some years ago, "Cruise it or lose it" still applies. Rarely used sections of the B.C.N. system can still fall prey to the developers, the Ridgacre Branch being the latest example.

The duration of the cruise is any 24 hours between the start time and 3:00 pm on the following day, allowing 6 hours rest which can be taken at the boaters' discretion. The preferred finishing point is Gas Street Basin. During this time participants gain 'points' for the miles cruised and locks worked, bonus points being awarded for particularly difficult or rarely cruised parts of the system. The boat crew gaining the highest number of points and being able to prove it in the form of a timed log book backed up

with photographic evidence will be deemed to be the winners.

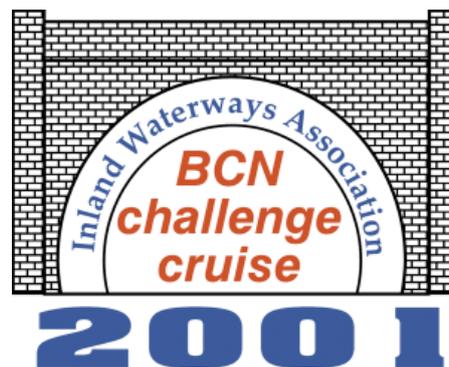
The B.C.N. has gained the reputation of being inhospitable, rubbish strewn, hemmed in by derelict, industrial buildings and cursed by vandalism, but the newcomers to the B.C.N. Challenge have been quick to discover that this situation is now largely in the past. The Black Country Canals are being regenerated for commercial or leisure use including locations such as Old Turn Junction, Gas Street

Basin and the Merry Hill Complex. There has been much landscaping of disused mining areas especially on the northern B.C.N. and various canal side buildings are being restored. The 'remainder' status, however, of much of the British Waterways operated B.C.N. means that only minimal funds can be spent on maintenance. Only by making the public and general boating enthusiasts more aware of the delights of these waterways

will they become more heavily used, thus increasing pressure on Government and Local Authorities to improve this unparalleled amenity in the very heart of England.

My experience of participating in the challenge illustrated to me the fine efforts of the I.W.A., the B.C.N. Society and others. I encourage all boaters to explore the B.C.N.

Boaters wishing to participate in the challenge should contact Chris and Helen Davey (Tel : 01730 814670) for details.



## SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY BOAT RALLY/GATHERING

From current reckoning it looks as if seven members' boats will be attending the Society's first Boat Rally/Gathering in the Napton area over the Bank Holiday weekend 4-6 May. This is an excellent response from the nine boats moored at Napton. The crews of the other two boats have prior booked commitments so will not be able to join us this year.

The provisional programme for the weekend is for the boats to gather on Saturday alongside the towing path north of Bridge 19, at Stockton on the Grand Union Canal. That evening there will be a Barbecue and 'fun & games' (whatever that means??). There could be music....there could be colourful lights.... there could be a quiz....there could even be fireworks....who knows? It is proposed to gather together for lunch on Sunday (eating up Saturday night's left-overs??) (or a visit to the nearby 'Boat' for

a jar or three) and then those who want to can do their own thing for the rest of the weekend. One suggestion is for some of the boats to cruise in convoy to Braunston or Hillmorton. We can play it as it comes, according to the weather and people's wishes etc.

*This event is not solely for boat owners – all members of the Society are invited to attend. Either one can 'cadge' a berth on one of the boats attending or drive up to Stockton for the Saturday Gathering and Barbecue. We would love to see as many Society members as possible.*

For further details of this first Society Boat Rally/Gathering, including directions to the site, please contact me by 'phone or e-mail (details elsewhere in this Newsletter).

*Paul Herbert*

## SCS MEMBERS' BOAT REGISTER

It will be remembered that in the August 2001 Newsletter it was proposed to publish a simple 'register' listing brief details of boats owned by Society members, who were invited to put forward their details for inclusion, if they so wished.

This has been a very successful initiative and sixteen entries have been received from the following Society members:-

David & Maureen Butcher  
 Richard & Pam Chester-Browne  
 Martin & Dawn Cripps  
 Michael & Angela Faull  
 Ken & Margaret Froud  
 Tony & Pauline Fry  
 Ron & Myra Glover  
 Malcolm & Barbara Hartas  
 Paul & Gill Herbert  
 David & Margaret James  
 Eric, Sue & Peter Lewis  
 Kevin & Allan Lewis  
 Peter Oates & Laura Sturrock  
 Terry & Ann Phippard  
 Robb Unsworth  
 John & Olive Whitehouse

In addition to the owners names, the register will include the name and a brief description of their boat and its mooring location.

The register will be published in a suitable easy-to-read format. If there are any other Society boat owners who would like to have their details included, please contact me by the end of April, at the latest.

*Paul Herbert*

## CUTWEB NAPTON BOAT GATHERING

Cutweb Internet Boating Club, as its name indicates, is a 'Virtual Reality' Boat Club. From 20-22 September they will be organising their Napton Boat Gathering at Holt Farm, Napton Top Lock (which happens to be the mooring location for three of our Society members).



On the Friday evening there will be a general get-together, followed by a Bar-B-Q Saturday afternoon and musical entertainment in the marquee by 'Meet on the Ledge' on Saturday evening. On Sunday there is a varied programme including a Boaters' Auction, Boaters' Games and a Quiz.

Entry to the rally will be £12 per boat or £10 if booked before 31 July. A plaque will be available at £5.

This is (we think) the 3<sup>rd</sup> CIBC Boat Gathering and from the accounts of some Society members who are either Cutweb members or have attended previous events, this is a most enjoyable weekend. I know of three Society boat crews who haven't attended before who are hopeful of going this year.

You can access the CIBC rally website at <http://www.cutweb.org.uk/rally.htm> and this shows photographs of previous gatherings. For further details of the rally contact:

Mike Wooding, 5 Ware Orchard, Barby, Nr. Rugby, CV23 8UF Tel: 01788 890365 e-mail at: [rally@draco.org.uk](mailto:rally@draco.org.uk)

*Paul Herbert*

## WATERWAYS DIARY

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton.

Hopefully you can find something to interest you. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 04/04/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS	John Silman will be giving his illustrated talk on "The History of the Postcard" which had to be postponed from last July.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Wed 17/04/02 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Bernard Potter - The natural history of the Basingstoke Canal. Illustrated talk shows what can be seen as one walks along the towpath. Westgate Centre Woking, adjacent to Wheatsheaf Bridge (Chobham Road).	Arthur Dungate: 020 8737 4896 <a href="mailto:arthurdungate@iname.com">arthurdungate@iname.com</a>
Sun 21/04/02 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Seend Iron Works, Tramway & Seend Locks (K&A Canal). Meet / Park lay-by just over canal bridge on road to Seend (off A365).	Roger Halse: 01249 652846
Sun 28/04/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Sat, Sun & Mon 04 - 06/05/02	Southampton CS	Society's first Boat Rally/Gathering in the Napton area	Paul Herbert: 023 8026 2365
Sat, Sun & Mon 04 - 06/05/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	May Day Bank Holiday - Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sun 05/05/02	Wey & Arun Canal Trust	Small Boat Cruise at Loxwood. Entry fee charged.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@freeserve.co.uk">wact@freeserve.co.uk</a>
Mon 06/05/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Thu 09/05/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Society Auction with Linda Pearce wielding the hammer.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Sat 25/05/02 2.00 - 6.00pm	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Arun Cruise - Pulborough to Pallingham <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 <a href="mailto:pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk">pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Sat to Tues 01 - 04/06/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Spring Bank Holiday / Queen's Golden Jubilee - Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sun & Mon 02 - 03/06/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Days	Tel: 01225 483001
Thu 06/06/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting with supporting programme.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Sat & Sun 15-16/06/02	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	Wiltshire Waterways Festival - Templar's Firs, Wootton Bassett (south west of Swindon). <a href="http://www.wilts-canal-festival.co.uk">http://www.wilts-canal-festival.co.uk</a>	Janet Flanagan: 01793 523048
Sun 16/06/02	Wey & Arun CT	Poddle 2002 - sponsored walk	WACT Office: 01403 752403 <a href="mailto:wact@freeserve.co.uk">wact@freeserve.co.uk</a>
Sun 23/06/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Sun 23/06/02 2am	IWA Salisbury Group	Circular walk around the K&A Canal in Wilcot area followed by lunch at Golden Swan	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sat & Sun 29 - 30/06/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Thu 04/07/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Derrick Hunt will be talking about "The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Friends, Families, Feuds, Finance, Failure and Future."	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Sat 06/07/02 6.00pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Canal Cruise - Brassknocker Bottom (on SCC) to Bradford-on-Avon (K&A). Approx 4 hour cruise with stops. Cost £5.00. Own food, licensed bar on board. Bookings with cheques (payable to Somersetshire Coal Canal Society) and SAE to Ron Brake, 33 Bradford Road, Combe Down, BATH BA2 5BL	See Details
Thu 18/07/02 7.30pm?	IWA Salisbury Group	To be confirmed. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sat & Sun 27 - 28/07/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sat & Sun 27 - 28/07/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Days	Tel: 01225 483001
Sun 28/07/02 11.00am - 4.00pm	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Portsmouth Harbour & Port Creek - Fareham to Langstone Harbour Cruise <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 <a href="mailto:pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk">pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Sun 18/08/02	Chichester CS and IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Chichester Canal Water Fair at Canal Basin. Small boat cruise start before 11.00am <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 <a href="mailto:pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk">pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Sat, Sun & Mon 24 - 26/08/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	August Bank Holiday - Crofton Steaming Weekend. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Sun & Mon 25 - 26/08/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Days	Tel: 01225 483001

Continued on page 6

## WATERWAYS DIARY

(continued from page 5)

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 08/09/02 11.00am	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Beaulieu River Cruise - Bucklers Hard to Beaulieu and return. Charge for use of slipway <a href="http://www.phobox.com/cruises">http://www.phobox.com/cruises</a>	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 <a href="mailto:pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk">pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Thu 19/09/02 7.30pm?	IWA Salisbury Group	Talk - "Exploring the Valley of the Rhone" by Frank Stokes. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sun 22/09/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Sat & Sun 28 - 29/09/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Last Crofton Steaming Weekend of year. Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00, Children £1.00 (under 5 free) Family (2 adults, 2 children) £9.00	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
Thu 03/10/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre with their new production for 2002.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Sun 20/10/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Day	Tel: 01225 483001
Thu 07/11/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Bruce Hall MBE, Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust, will be giving the latest news on the restoration of the Stroudwater and the Thames & Severn Canals.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Thu 21/11/02 7.30pm?	IWA Salisbury Group	Talk by Jon Sims and Colin Jones. Subject to be confirmed. Salisbury Rugby Club	Jon van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 05/12/02 7.45pm	Southampton CS and IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Waterways Quiz and American Supper	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Fri 29/03/02 to Sun 29/09/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Crofton Pumping Engines (not in steam) -open for visitors daily. Adults £2.50, Seniors £2.00, Children £1.00 (except steaming days - see above)	Ray Knowles: 01672 851639
31/03/02 to 20/10/02 10.00am - 5.00pm	K&A Canal Trust	Claverton Pumping Station open days - Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday	Tel: 01225 483001
4th Thursday of month	Wey & Arun CT	Series of interesting but not too arduous walks in Sussex come rain or shine. Lunch at well chosen establishment en route or at end. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b Zachariah Keppel on the restored section of canal at Loxwood.	John Lisk: 01493 752403
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b Egremont on the canal from Chichester.	Bookings: 01243 670786

### SAVOUR A MOMENT IN TIME....

Believe it or not promotional films about inland waterways were being produced as early as the 1930's. BW has just re-released a collection of historical films capturing the unique waterway atmosphere from days gone by.

Five VHS videos entitled Waterways our Heritage, Inland Waterways, Broad Waterways, Take to the Boats and Gentle Highway, each comprising of two or more films, are available at £14.95 each (plus £2 p&p) from the BW Customer Service Centre by phoning 01923 201120 or emailing [enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk)

### BLUE IS THE NEW GREEN!

Black, royal blue and white have replaced the green workwear we are used to seeing on the canal bank. BW has introduced the new uniform after extensive consultation with staff and users about colour and the quality of the garments. The new workwear uniforms were introduced in February 2002.

### EXTENDED OPENING HOURS FOR BW CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Extended opening hours for the restructured BW Customer Service Centre have been introduced to include weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. The new opening times are part of a series of moves

to improve the services available to boaters and other waterway visitors looking for information on the inland waterways.

The new BW Customer Service Centre combines the expertise of the Customer Service and Craft Licensing teams, providing a one-stop shop for all enquiries about using or visiting the inland waterways.

For information about the inland waterways there is also the revamped BW website at [www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk), which provides a fun, interactive resource, including a state-of-the-art mapping facility. In addition, BW staff in waterway offices throughout England, Scotland and Wales are able to help with local waterway enquiries.

Out of hours, BW continues to provide a 24-hour emergency freephone service on 0800 47 999 47. You can no longer dial 100 and ask for freephone canals, however this direct dial number is now also free for mobile users.

The BW Customer Service Centre can be contacted 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays, by telephone on 01923 201120, by fax on 01923 201304 or by email: [enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk). The service is closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

*From BW's waterfront magazine Spring/Summer 2002*

## MONTGOMERY CANAL

*Recently, our President, Brian Evans wrote a letter to the Transport Directorate of the Welsh Assembly objecting to plans to build a roundabout over the course of the Montgomery Canal thereby making restoration very difficult and expensive. Brian received the following reply:*

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Drafnidiaeth  
Transport Directorate  
Parc Cathays / Cathays Park  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

7 February 2002

Dear Sir

### **THE SWANSEA-MANCHESTER TRUNK ROAD (A483) (MAERDY BRIDGE JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT, SIDE ROADS) ORDER 200-**

I refer to your letter of 7 January 2002 objecting to the above named draft Order.

A large amount of public concern has been expressed about the possible effects of the proposed roundabout on the viability of the future of the nearby Montgomery Canal. The scheme would not have prejudiced restoration in line with the British Waterways' 1987 Act of Parliament, which gave them powers to restore the canal within defined limits. However, British Waterways have very recently expressed doubts that they can carry out the restoration in line with the 1987 Act of Parliament because of the Canal's designation as an SSSI and Special Area for Conservation. The canal was designated because of its internationally rare population of Luronium Natans (Floating Water Plantain), for whose conservation British Waterways is the lead UK partner. British Waterways will therefore have to reconsider how to restore the canal and will need to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment on their proposals.

In order to avoid constraining British Waterways options, I announced on the 31st January that the Welsh Assembly Government has decided not to proceed at this time with its proposed roundabout junction improvement. A copy of the press release is attached.

Because a need remains to address the accident problem at the junction with the B4393, we now intend to carry out a far more minor improvement at that junction. It is anticipated that this will improve safety in the short term until British Waterways have identified and implemented a safe and environmentally acceptable canal restoration. At that time the junction can be reconsidered in the light of the performance of the works now proposed.

The Welsh Assembly Government will co-operate with British Waterways and provide appropriate advice to help them achieve their objectives.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H Burr  
Roads Administration Division 3

*As the letter states, many objections were sent to Cardiff about the proposals. The outcome shows that, if enough people voice concern, a satisfactory result can be achieved and every little bit helps.*



### **MIKRON GET ALL STEAMED UP!**

The Mikron Theatre group is forsaking its narrow boat and visiting the West Country in April/May. *All Steamed Up - the Adventures of Richard Trevithick, the Cornish Giant of Steam* will be premiered at Trevithick Day in Camborne on Saturday 27 April and then tours to venues in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset until 18 May. Catch these tour dates and more information about Mikron's 31<sup>st</sup> National Waterways Tour on [www.mikron.org.uk](http://www.mikron.org.uk) or call 01484 843701

## SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

### Meetings:

1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm  
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton

### President:

Brian Evans.

### Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.  
Email: [p.herbert@ukgateway.net](mailto:p.herbert@ukgateway.net)

### Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

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### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614  
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### Committee:

Martin Cripps, Laurie Pearce, Linda Pearce, David Townley-Jones

### Newsletter distributed by:

hjs, Chartered Accountants, 12-14 Carlton Place, Southampton, SO15 2EA. Tel: 023 8023 4222

### Society Website:

<http://www.users.waitrose.com/~whitenap/index.htm>

## Heritage Open Days 2002

Would you like to be part of England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event? Heritage Open Days is run by the Civic Trust and takes place this year from 13-16 September. The event is a celebration of architecture, local history and culture, offering free public access to a huge range of historic and contemporary buildings across England including sites on the waterways.

To receive more information, contact The Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW, or visit their website [www.heritageopendays.org](http://www.heritageopendays.org) or call 020 7930 9294.

### Screen saver

Download the free BW screen saver by clicking on [www.britishwaterways.co.uk/screensaver](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/screensaver) and transport yourself from your screen to scenes from the canal, complete with rippling water effect.

From BW's waterfront magazine Spring/Summer 2002

## CANAL SOCIETY SALES STAND

### GEOProjects Maps:

Inland Waterways of Britain .....	£4.75
Basingstoke Canal .....	£3.00
Birmingham Canal Navigations .....	£3.75
The Broads .....	£3.75
Caledonian Canal and the Great Glen .....	£3.75
Coventry & Ashby Canals and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal.....	£3.75
Forth & Clyde and Union Canals with the Crinan Canal.....	£4.75
Grand Union Canal (each).....	£3.75

Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford

Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley

Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames

Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash

Huddersfield Broad & Narrow Canals with the Ashton Canal.....	£4.00
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Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal with the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.....	£3.75
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Trent & Mersey Canal - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction.....	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal and River Trent - Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock .....	£3.75
Worcester & Birmingham Canal, with the Droitwich Canals.....	£4.00

**Ball Point Pens:** Embossed ..... 50p

**Book:** Remus the Narrowboat & his First Adventure (by Sue Lewis).....£4.99

**Burgees:** Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo on each side .....£8.00

**Decorated Mugs:** .....£2.25

**Notelets:** with drawings of canal and Romsey scenes (by Brian Evans)...£1.00

**Shopper Bags:** Cotton with screen-printed Society logo each side.....£2.25

**Society Members Badges:** Enamel ..... 75p

**Sweat Shirts:** 30th Anniversary in Light Grey ..... £16.00

with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

**Sweat Shirts:** Standard in Navy or Royal Blue ..... £15.00

with Society logo embroidered on breast

**Tea Towels:** Various colourful designs .....£2.50 & £3.25

**Tee Shirts:** Screen printed with Society logo across chest .....£6.50

in Navy Blue - medium, large & extra large; in Red - medium

Visit the Sales Stand at Society meetings and place your orders with Paul Herbert or Ray Brooks - or ring Paul on 023 8026 2365

## FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

**4th April 2002** John Silman will be giving his illustrated talk on "The History of the Postcard" which had to be postponed from last July.

**9th May 2002** Society Auction with Linda Pearce wielding the hammer.

**6th June 2002** Annual General Meeting with supporting programme.

**4th July 2002** Derrick Hunt will be talking about "The Dorset & Somerset Canal - Friends, Families, Feuds, Finance, Failure and Future."

**7th November 2002** Bruce Hall MBE, Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust, will be giving the latest news on the restoration of the Stroudwater and the Thames & Severn Canals.

**5th December 2002** Waterways Quiz and American Supper