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NEWSLETTER No. 231 APRIL 1990

MEETINGS - 1st Thursday each month at 7.45 pm.
St. John Ambulance Hall, King's Park Road, Southampton.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 5th April - 'Kennet and Avon Canal, yours to enjoy' - Martin Brown, Recreation Officer for the East end of the Kennet and Avon Canal.
- 3rd May - Talk by Mike O'Brien, HM Coastguard plus 16mm film.
- 7th June - A G M - followed by a Cine Film from the Shell Film Library
- 5th July - The History and Restoration of the Mid Hants Railway
- 2nd August - Members Slides
- 6th September - David Laing - Canal trip round England

MARCH MEETING 'A Night of Nostalgia' was the title our speaker gave to his slide show after previewing his pictures the previous evening. Ken Gibbons interest in waterways began with towpath walks and fishing outings on the Grand Union with his father, and his early swimming practice was also in the cut.

For some years Ken was Chief Press and Publicity Officer for BWB and many of his slides brought back memories of special occasions.

He left BWB fifteen years ago, so most of the slides were taken before that time, except for a few recent ones specially made to complete before and after comparisons which emphasised just how much waterways and their surroundings are altering.

Aerial shots of BACAT at Tower Bridge were particularly interesting. How sad that this little ship was forced away from Britain by industrial dispute.

MUSEUM TRIP to National Waterways Museum at Gloucester. Sunday, May 13th leaving Southampton at 9.00am approx.

Cost including entrance to Museum:-

Adults £8.00 - OAP's & Children (3 to 16) £6.75 - Children under 3 £3.00

Contact Martin Cripps at Society Meetings or write to:-

42 Delamere Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 0JB. Tel:-0705 753241

NAVVIES bringing you regular news of restoration projects etc. on Britains Waterways. For years I (Chairman) have tried, without much success, to talk SCS members into buying this informative little magazine. Minimum subscription is still only 95p. Yes, N I N E T Y F I V E P E N C E for 4 copies. Good reading cannot come cheaper than this. Send your subscription to:-

Sue Watts, WRG Ltd., 15 Eleanor Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 1FZ
You will be pleased that you did.

WEY & ARUN CANAL TRUST We have received details of 2 events from the W&ACT

1. River Arun Small Boat Sponsored Cruise (from Pulborough to Pallingham) on Sunday, 20th May 1990. The cruise is suitable for canoes, dinghies, light cruisers and similar craft. It is planned to leave Pulborough at 10.30am to catch the favourable tide. Further details and an entry form from Tony Coles.

2. Wey-South Puddle '90. This is a 15 mile sponsored walk on a circular route to take place on Sunday, 3rd June 1990. The W&ACT have said that they will split 50/50 with the SCS any sponsorship money the SCS raises.

The Puddle is a sponsored walk organised each year by the W&ACT and last year it attracted over 500 people, but the organisation could cope with more. The route this year follows part of the old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal to its junction with the River Arun at Ford. Lunch will be taken here. Free rolls will be supplied and there will be a bar to buy real ale and other drinks. After lunch the walk continues along the river bank towards Arundel and then turns through Binstead Woods, close to the route of the proposed by-pass, so this could be your last chance to walk this route. Full details and sponsorship forms from Tony Coles.

CHICHESTER CANAL SOCIETY - February Newsletter. The Secretary wrote that the Weekend of 26-28 January was a very satisfying one. Fallen trees were cleared from the towpath and the Chichester Canal received a visit from members of Waterway Recovery Group, some from as far away as Blackpool, Blackburn and Manchester. More local help would be appreciated. Meet on a Sunday morning at the Canal Basin at about 9.30am.

CANAL USE - The use of the canal and towpath are both increasing for walking and fishing. Many elderly people visit the canal basin to feed ducks and to watch the young canoeists from the Youth Wing for whom the canal provides a convenient and safe practice area. Dogs and litter louts present the usual problem.

THE NEW TUG - A second Bantam Tug with a 3 Cylinder Lister Diesel will hopefully be launched in the Spring. Tug drivers are needed. Be a captain for the day on the Chichester Canal. If you are mechanically minded there are many maintenance jobs to be done.

SEATS - 8 old British Railways benches have been obtained and are being renovated. They will be installed between Hunston and Birdham so that walkers may rest.

PUBLICITY - The Tourist Office said that the Society canal leaflet was one of the most popular giveaways of 1989. The display stands, bought last year have seen good service. (Maybe they would like to have ours. Chairman). This year there will be new publicity posters and a more detailed brochure about the Canal. A small grant has been received from Chichester District Council to assist with the production of eleven explanatory signs along the canal.

EVENTS 1989 - The Canal Walk and Strawberry Tea was very popular. The Barrel Races were once again a great success but more entries and sponsors would have been welcome.

EVENTS 1990 - Walk and Strawberry Tea will be on Sunday, July 1st and the Barrel Races on Saturday, July 14th. An Italian theme for the festivities ought to offer lots of scope. Anybody got a Gondola? (Serious request).

WORKING PARTIES - Valuable help has fortunately been received from Community Service. Volunteers for a variety of work are badly needed. Meet every Sunday at Chichester Canal Basin. New faces would be very welcome.

IWA/WRG CHARITY BANK The new IWA Chairman, David Stevenson, has sent his thanks to those IWA/WRG members who have contributed to the stamp/voucher bank in 1989. The total raised in 1989 was £1,100 making a total of £1,500 since its launch in 1988. The target for 1990 is £1,250.

Please send Green Shield (old & new), Co-op, Pink and all other types of trading stamps; Texaco, Mobil, Shell, Esso and all other types of petrol vouchers; Air Miles, cigarette coupons, silver paper, aluminium can ring pulls and all denominations of used postage stamps to:-

IWA/WRG Charity Bank, 6 Spa Lane, Hinckley, Leics LE10 1JB

The used stamps are turned into cash and the petrol vouchers/trading stamps are turned into goods for sale.

WATERWAY ENVIRONMENT SERVICES GROUP The recently formed Waterway Environment Services Group has a brief to develop Britain's canals and rivers for a viable future, as well as preserving them for generations to come.

It is a balance that presents unique challenges to the small team of architects and landscape professionals. As chief architect, design and planning engineer, it is the responsibility of Peter White to ensure that future generations can enjoy the rich past of 2000 miles of canals and rivers.

Peter White estimates that at any one time the team will be running between 30 and 50 individual projects, worth around £100 million. White's team won widespread acclaim for its redevelopment of a dockside warehouse in Gloucester, now the National Waterways Museum.

There are plans to build a team of about 20 professionals to caretake and remould Britain's waterways. For anyone lucky enough to obtain a position with the Waterway Environment Services Group there are two perks to the job, as well as a chance to both preserve and develop a unique slice of Britain's 2000 mile long heritage.

1. A free boat licence
2. A free mooring