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NEWSLETTER No. 242 APRIL 1991

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 4th April - 'Bristol or Bust' by Jon Sims. Illustrated account of a recent hire boat trip from Trowbridge to Bristol and return.
- 2nd May - Film and Video night. 15 min video 'On the Cut' + 2 16mm films - 'Thames Barrier' - reasons for building and its construction and 'Made in Hong Kong' - underwater tunnel from Hong Kong to Kowloon
- 16th-19th May - Exhibition Stand at Community Festival '91, Chandlers Ford.
- 6th June - AGM - followed by video on the changing face of British Waterways
- 4th July - 'HMS Warrior 1860'. History, Restoration and Preservation.
- 1st August - Members Slides.
- 5th September - 'Engineering on Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and Associated Waterways' by BWB speaker.
- 3rd October - 'Boat Museum - Ellesmere Port' - Tony Hirst, Director.
- 7th November - Hugh McKnight - 'European Waterways'.

MARCH MEETING. Our speaker at the March meeting was Mike Beacham, Sales & Marketing Manager of Lister/Petter Marine. He and his wife travelled down from Gloucester and towed a trailer having 3 marine diesels which were on display outside the St. John Ambulance Hall during our tea break.

We first saw 2 short videos on Hawker Siddeley, the parent firm, then Mike showed slides of engines, generating sets and boats which are powered by Lister/Petter engines.

Finally we watched a 20 minute video of narrowboat 'Progress' crossing the English Channel to attend the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the rescue of the British Forces from Dunkirk.

Those attending the meeting were given packs of playing cards and Mike Beacham generously presented to our library a copy of the book on the history of Lister and also a copy of the video of the Channel crossing. Both are available from our librarian, Mike Smetham.

Fred Harrison of Motor & Marine attended our meeting. He is the local agent for Lister/Petter and his address is reproduced here should members wish to use his services.



MOTOR & MARINE
FRED C. HARRISON, M.I.M.I.

15, Heather Close
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DONATIONS. Following Peter Hiron's talk on The Crofton Pumping Station in January, £50 was donated to the K & A Trust.

£50 was donated to the Chichester Canal Society in February after John Cooper's visit.

In March £25 was sent to the Waterway Recovery Group when Mike Beacham of Lister/Petter marine was our speaker.

WE WELCOME a new member to Southampton Canal Society and congratulate her parents, Martin and Dawn Cripps. Rachel was born at 2.44pm on Friday 22nd March.

DID YOU TAKE good pictures of the Society trips to Gloucester and Claverton? If not, there are some for sale on the Society sales stand, kindly donated by Tony Coates.

STAMPS AND TOKENS that members have collected have been posted to Michael Handford for the IWA/WRG Charity Bank. The empty box now awaits refilling.

NAME CHANGE. The Stroudwater, Thames and Severn Canal Trust has changed its name to The Cotswold Canals Trust.

SHEILA DOEG, the editor of 'New Ways' ('Waterways News'), British Waterways house magazine, has retired. Some years ago Sheila gave members of Southampton Canal Society an amusing illustrated talk about her work with the newspaper. We wish her 'All the Best' for a long and happy retirement.

CHESTERFIELD CANAL SOCIETY have produced a new map of the canal in A1 size. Available as a black on white print suitable for hand colouring, it costs £2.50 from Chris Malton, 1 Park Road, Old Tupton, Chesterfield S42 6ER

BASINGSTOKE CANAL. 1) The Basingstoke Canal Authority has announced that HRH The Duke of Kent will reopen the canal on 10th May. The ceremony will be performed at Frimley Lodge Park.

2) The Nature Conservancy Council has advised Hampshire and Surrey County Councils that it has decided to delay the notification of the Canal as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for 3 years. The decision follows considerable pressure from the Canal Society and other parties interested in the restoration of the canal. There has been much local comment to the effect that such a declaration would not have been possible before the wildlife habitat was restored along with the canal. During the 3 years, research will continue into the effect of the increasing boat population on the wildlife.

DUDLEY TUNNEL. Work to repair Dudley Tunnel started in February and it is hoped to complete the work late this year.

Because there is only a single air shaft, internal combustion engines are not allowed to be used within the tunnel. To avoid danger from fumes British Waterways are arranging a scheme under which pleasure craft will be towed through in trains by a diesel/electric powered tug. The tug service will be provided by British Waterways' historic motor tug "Bittell". This vessel has been handed into the care of the Dudley Canal Trust for conversion to diesel electric drive from the existing diesel engine.

FRIENDS OF "PRESIDENT" are attempting to re-create a 'traditional' fly run. The aims are to recover "President's" somewhat tarnished image following extensive criticism about the behaviour of those who operate the boat, to raise money for the IWA's Waterways for All appeal and for "President's" further preservation.

"President", a restored Fellows, Morton and Clayton steamer will leave City Road Basin, London (FMC's depot) at 7.00pm on Thursday 23rd May and will travel non-stop, to arrive at Braunston some 50 hours later - a distance of 105 miles and 95 locks. The crew will work alternate shifts, with changeovers being at the eleven original points on route.

NATIONAL RALLY. The Inland Waterways Association are predicting that the forthcoming National Rally, or Festival, at Windmill End over the August Bank Holiday weekend will be another resounding success. At the end of January 511 boat and 131 trade bookings had been received and three craft marquees were full. There will be a full programme of traditional Black Country entertainment and CAMRA are to assist with the management of the beer tent and hope that a selection of real ales will be available.

DID YOU ENJOY painting with Les at the December meeting? Courses by Colin Jones and Brian Collings at Stoke Bruerne are planned as follows:-

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|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 15/16 June 1991 | | Fendermaking and Ropework |
| 5/6 October 1991 | | Narrowboat Decoration |
| 12/13 October 1991 | | Fendermaking and Ropework |
| 19/20 October 1991 | | Narrowboat Decoration |
| 26/27 October 1991 | | Decorative Ropework |
| 9/10 November 1991 | | Fendermaking and Ropework |
| 16/17 November 1991 | ... | Narrowboat Decoration |
| 23/24 November 1991 | ... | Decorative Ropework |
| 22/23 February 1992 | ... | Narrowboat Decoration |
| 29 Feb/1 March 1992 | ... | Fendermaking and Ropework |
| 7/8 March 1992 | | Narrowboat Decoration |
| 14/15 March 1992 | | Decorative Ropework |
| 21/22 March 1992 | | Lettering |

Full details can be obtained from Les Osborn.

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