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NEWSLETTER No. 275 APRIL 1994

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- 7th April - Return to Lock 19, Basingstoke Canal - Jon Sims.
- 5th May - Canal dead ends - Eric Lewis.
- Canal de Nivernais - Brian Evans.
- 2nd June - AGM and film night.

MARCH MEETING. The Chairman had to announce the sad news that Frances Hart could not be with us due to the death of her husband.

We send our sympathy to Frances and hope that sometime in the future she will feel able to visit us.

JOHN REED. We sadly announce that our member John Reed passed away in Daventry Hospital at 1.30am on Sunday 13th March.

John and Joan Reed joined Southampton Canal Society during its first year of existence. Although even in those days he suffered with his sight it was John who gave our new exhibition stand its first coat of blue and white paint. The pictures to go on the stand were selected from a collection laid out across the floor in the Reeds' large house in St James Road. John and Joan also took part in our early work parties on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

In 1970 the Reeds sold their house in Southampton and moved to Braunston. Soon after the NB 'Braunston Mayfly' became a proud possession and canal cruising took over as the major pastime.

Many of Joan's boating articles appeared in 'Newsletter', maybe the most amusing was about the journey to Coventry, by boat, in January, for John to attend a hospital appointment, and getting iced-in on the way home. The round trip took about a week.

I am informed that from the time of the purchase of 'Braunston Mayfly' until the end of 1992, when John's health and sight deterioration forced its sale, the Reeds had cruised 14,800 miles and worked 6,820 locks!

On 17th March, John was laid to rest in Braunston Churchyard overlooking the Grand Union.

We send our sincere sympathy to Joan and family. She will be staying on in 'The Moorings', The Wharf, Braunston and no doubt, as before, would be pleased to see any Southampton Canal Society member who passes by.

Brian Evans.

The following is reproduced from IWA Council News, March 1994.

KENNETH GOODWIN. I am writing this short note to convey the very sad news that Ken Goodwin, long time supporter of the Waterways Cause, died peacefully in his sleep early on Monday morning, 31st January 1994.

Ken was in turn North West Branch, later Region, Chairman, National Treasurer and, from 1982 until 1989, National Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association. Since 1989 he has been an IWA Vice President. He was particularly interested in Restoration, being a strong advocate of volunteer restoration, especially that of the waterway recovery group. He was a founder member and Vice Chairman of the IWA Restoration Committee with a particular interest and affection for the Montgomery Canal. He served for six years on the Inland Waterway Amenity Advisory Council (IWAAC), and was a member of many restoration groups, canal societies and other waterway organisations. He will be greatly missed on the Cut.

David Stevenson, National Chairman.

A letter of condolence on the Society's behalf has been sent to Eva Goodwin.

MARCH MEETING. We are grateful to Dieter Jebens for stepping in at short notice and providing us with an enjoyable evening on 'His View of the River Thames'. For a while, Dieter worked for a magazine 'Thames User', produced by the NRA. In this position he was invited to attend many functions associated with the Thames. His work also led him to conduct numerous interviews with a variety of interesting characters producing articles for the magazine on their work and pursuits. Many of the people and organisations were news to members and we felt that we had been let into some of the secrets of the Thames. As with his Basingstoke talks, Dieter's slides were first class and the accompanying talk full of interesting facts and amusement.

FUN RUN Chichester Canal Society. Once again we have had no volunteers to take part on our behalf. The Committee has therefore sent a token £10.00 donation. Funds raised are to be spent on the construction of a ramp to aid wheelchair and elderly people wishing to take a trip on the Society's Boat.

DONATION of £50.00 has been sent to the Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port at the request of Hugh McKnight, following his film show at our meeting in February.

24 HOUR BCN CRUISE. "Cruise 'Em or Lose 'Em" is the theme of an Inland Waterways Association campaign designed to encourage cruising on little used waterways. A 24-hour cruise of Birmingham's extensive inland waterways network, aimed at encouraging the use of little-known parts of the system.

The idea is simple: every mile cruised and every lock used has a points value - more for distant parts of the system, less for 'easy' cruising water, with bonuses for reaching the ends of far-flung arms. Craft taking part are allowed to cruise for no more than 24 hours in a specified period of 30 hours and the highest points total wins. The skill is therefore one of planning a route which will yield the maximum points value and then cruising it staying strictly within British Waterways' bye-laws concerning speed limits and lock operation, in the specified time.

This year, the 24 hour Challenge Cruise will take place between 9.00am Saturday 25th June and 3.00pm Sunday 26th June.

All entrants will receive a brass plaque and the winner will also receive a trophy. IWA organisers, Helen & Chris Davey and Alan Jervis, are confident that the cruise offers an irresistible combination of fun, intellectual challenge, endurance and campaigning which should ensure that it becomes a popular annual event.

Entry forms and copies of the rules can be obtained from:-

Helen Davey, 42 Orchard Close, Alresford, Hants. SO24 9PY Tel:-0962 734909.

RIVER ARUN SPONSORED CRUISE. The 1994 small boat cruise will be held on Sunday 22nd May, as usual from Pulborough to Pallingham and back, a total of over 6 miles of interesting navigation through delightful countryside.

Last year the Solent and Arun Branch of IWA donated £100 to the Montgomery Canal restoration and a smaller amount to the Wey and Arun Canal Trust from monies collected on the 1993 cruise.

Do we have a member, with a small boat, who will represent Southampton Canal Society on this years cruise. If anyone wishes to take part and contribute to waterway restoration funds, either by obtaining sponsorship or by making a small donation please see the Chairman.

PRESS CUTTINGS. The IWA relies on members to send in press cuttings.

They need cuttings for three reasons. (1) To enable them to respond to events that are found through the press. (2) To enable them to measure the amount of press coverage that the Association receives. (3) To enable John Gagg to write his feature article for each edition of Waterways.

All readers are asked to keep a look out for any press cuttings involving the inland waterways. If it is a matter that requires urgent action or response, the cutting should be sent immediately to Region Chairman or Head Office. If the matter does not require an urgent response, please send the cutting direct to John Gagg, Ladybarn, Back lane, Blakeney, Holt, Norfolk. NR25 7N. All cuttings sent to John are forwarded to Neil Edwards, in due course, for the other purposes mentioned above.

