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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 2nd August - Members Slides
6th September - David Laing - Canal trip round England, David Laing spoke to the Society in February 1988 about the Irish Canals and promised to return to tell us about his travels around the English canals after 'Winkle' was unloaded from the ferry in Liverpool.
4th October - Chris Davey - Waterway Recovery Group, the History, Aims and Objectives, work camps and future plans.
1st November - Peter Brougham - Kennet and Avon Boat Builders, Construction and fitting out of Narrowboats, the tricks of the trade recounted with enthusiasm.
6th December - Christmas Festivities - with Les Osborn giving a hands on demonstration on the art of painting canal roses etc.

-*- JUNE MEETING -*- the history and restoration of the Mid - Hants Railway often known as the 'Watercress Line', was presented by John Adams who gave a very thorough history of the railway. This was accompanied in the first half by a very good slide presentation showing the hard work put in on track laying and steam engine restoration. The second half of the presentation was a 16mm film on the line during restoration and in full steam, commentary by Murrey Walker (better known for his grand prix presentations, complete with a couple of minor errors for which he is well known).
-*- DONATION -*- following John Adams excellent presentation a donation of £ 20.00 has been made to the museum of the Mid - Hants Railway.
-*- SOCIETY TRIP -*- Saturday 22 September to visit Claverton Pumping Station, working water wheel / beam pump in action with time for your own picnic lunch followed by a 4 hour cruise with cream tea aboard 'Ladywood' from Bradford on Avon to Dundas Aquaduct and return. £11.50 adult £10.00 oap/child, bookings to Secretary at meetings or address above.
-*- SUBSCRIPTIONS -*- for the year are now due following the AGM where members attending voted not to increase subscriptions this year, thus increasing the extremely good value of membership remaining at £ 4.00 single and £ 6.00 family, and can be paid to the Treasurer at meetings or to the address above.
-*- ANDERTON LIFT -*- the Department of the Environment has at long last given consent for British Waterways to undertake the repair and restoration of the boat lift, as closely as possible to working order as before the closure, but full restoration will require some of the work to be funded by third parties. The boat lift has been closed since 1983 when routine repainting uncovered severe corrosion resulting in the closure for safety reasons. Anderton lift is a listed ancient monument which was originally opened in 1875 near Northwich to allow 2 full length narrow boats on each of the twin tanks to be raised or lowered the 50 feet down from the Trent & Mersey canal to the Weaver Navigation. This ingenious structure designed by Edwin Clark started life as an hydraulic lift with each tank balancing the other and was operated by pumping a little water out of the lower tank and was assisted by the hydraulic rams operated by a steam engine pump. An overhaul in 1908 led to each tank becoming independantly electrically operated and balanced by counter weights, each tank weighs 91 tons empty or 252 tons when full and is counter balanced by 252 tons of cast iron by a series of large heavy geared pullies and steel ropes.
-*- HAMBLE CRUISE -*- the Solent & Arun Brnch of the IWA will be holding the Hamble cruise again this year on Sunday 16 September leaving Swanwick slipway at 10.00am and their aim is to reach Botley. If you would like to take part or have a small boat contact Mike Laishley on 0705 325000 but if not come along and give them a good send off at Swanwick or form a reception committee at Botley, please let a Southampton Canal Society committee member know of your intentions.

-*- H M the QUEEN -*- on the 8th August 1990 will reopen the Kennet & Avon Canal at Devizes, in Wiltshire, this ceremony represents the historic restoration work directed by British Waterways the canal owners, and the many years of campaigning and fundraising by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, along with the active support of the riparian local authorities. Work will continue on further restoration improvements, both structurally and to the water supply and development of facilities and services.

The Kennet & Avon canal connects the River Avon near Bristol to the River Thames at Reading and is 87 miles long with 105 locks including the famous Caen hill flight of locks at Devizes, first opened in 1810 for commercial traffic but fell into disuse by 1951.

-*- JOHN & JOAN REED -*- Southampton Canal Society members living at Braunston will be at the opening ceremony and would like very much to meet and make acquaintance with other members of the Society at the Devizes ceremony or in the hotel in the evening, they will be staying at the Castle Hotel Devizes from the 7th to 9th August. John a very tall man with a white walking stick is fairly easy to recognise but for more firm arrangements phone them on 0788 890645.

-*- MONKEY MARSH LOCK -*- was reopened on the 17th July 1990 the last but one obstacle to full restoration on the Kennet & Avon Canal. The lock is an ancient monument and was originally constructed as a turf sided lock for the Kennet Navigation in 1723 and has been restored as a modern replica turf sided lock. During the work which was monitored by English Heritage. Several ages of the turf sided lock were discovered and their remains are now safely buried beneath the new replica lock.

-*- CHICHESTER CANAL -*- a local canal restoration project underway where you can get actively involved in now! Most of the work is carried out by volunteers with community services providing some assistance in the past, but your participation and practical help and fund raising is needed at all levels, from general help in tow path clearance to more technical mechanical skills and welding. Dredging work is under way and some boat tug driving may also be available. Work is undertaken most, Sundays meeting at 9.30am by the green caravan in Chichester canal basin or contact Chichester Canal Society Chairman on 0243 671051.

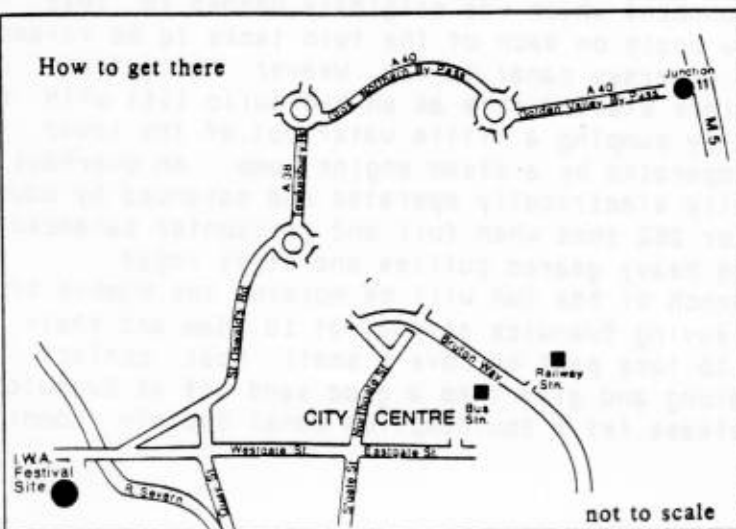
-*- WEY & ARUN -*- guided walks Sunday 19th August 3.00pm in the Billingshurst area of the canal where all aspects of the restoration can be seen and Friday 28th September at 2.00pm the Loxwood and Drungewick area of the canal will be walked, for further details contact Mary Bacon on 0403 783372.

-*- GLOUCESTER & SHARPNESS CANAL LEAK -*- a hole formed in timber a elm culvert built early last century which passes under the canal and threatened Bristol's water supply which receives half its water supply via the canal. After the leak was discovered the canal was closed by shutting lock type gates at Parkend Bridge and Junction Bridge and were further backed up by British Waterways with sheet pile and clay dams and a section of the canal was drained for the first time in a 170 years.

The urgency of the work required 8,500 tonne of clay to be brought on to the site in 36 hours and overpumping had to be installed to maintain the water supply to the canal and a fish rescue service for the length to be drained.

The culvert itself built just before 1820 when the canal was deepened consisted of elm planks fixed by massive nails to oak rings with wrought iron hoops for tensioning acting like large jubilee clips.

-*- NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL -*- Gloucester 90 -*- 25th to 27th August 1990 -*-



The cathedral city of Gloucester, an inland port on the river Severn for more than 400 years is hosting the IWA National Festival for the first time in 1990. The site will be on the historic Alney Island across the eastern channel of the river from the docks themselves so there will be ample space for parking, camping and the trade show. There should be something happening on the festival site and in the docks almost continuously throughout the period both day and night, and the wide selection of entertainers on hand will include musical and theatrical talents with many old known friends - Daystar - Mikron - Pumpkin Pie - will be joined by new live attractions.