

Chairman : Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, Romsey, Hants.
: Tel:- 01794 517115

Treasurer & Membership : Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Hants
: Tel:- 01703 860384

Secretary : Martin Cripps, 42 Delamere Road, Southsea, Hants.
: Tel:- 01705 753241

**NEWSLETTER No. 283
DECEMBER 1994**

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1st December 1994
American Supper &
'A Christmas Toast'
the production of Champagne.

5th January 1995
The Kennet & Avon Canal
and its Appeal
by Terry Kemp.

2nd February 1995
The Grand Union Canal
1793-1993
& Today's Engineering
by Chris Mitchell.

2nd March 1995
Early Inland Navigation
in Hampshire
by Peter Boyce.

6th April 1995
History of Postcards featuring
Hampshire & Canals
by John Silman.

4th May 1995
The History of Waterways and
Gloucester Docks
by Tony Conder,
Curator, National Waterways
Museum, Gloucester.

NOVEMBER MEETING. If anyone had wished to introduce a friend to the subject of inland waterways, then our November meeting would have been quite perfect. Our speaker, Frances Hart, Chief Executive of the Inland Waterways Association began by showing her collection of waterway connected items that she has collected through her jobs with British Waterways, the IWA and her personal interests. Each object was the subject of a story, many of them quite amusing. Frances' evening continued with a very varied slide show, from pictures of the men who conceived, planned and built navigations, through a wide variety of wonderful views to the present day. After the show members were invited to ask questions and Frances was able to bring us right up to date with IWA news including the AGM which had been only a few days before.

The importance of our speaker in the waterways movement attracted a number of visitors, including the Chairman of the IWA Solent & Arun Branch, Mike Laishley.

THAMES AND SEVERN BYPASSED. After a delay of two years the report of the Inspector on the Public Inquiry into the proposed A419, Latton Bypass, was finally published in July.

Whilst pointing out that common sense dictates that the bridges required to carry the, as yet, unrestored canal beneath the new road should be built at the same time as the road, the Secretaries of State have decided that this will not be done by the Department of Transport. This is contrary to the recent Planning Policy Guidance Paper which advocates taking care not to adversely affect Inland Waterways when preparing new road schemes. It also flies in the face of several Public Inquiry decisions made in recent years when the routes of the Wendover Arm, Hereford & Gloucester and Rochdale Canals, for example, have been safeguarded. The Department of Transport has offered to allow construction of the required bridges if the Cotswold Canals Trust can obtain the land and provide the required finance within two years.

The trust is appealing for supporters of the restoration scheme to write to MPs (at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) protesting against this decision and the unrealistic deadline, particularly in view of the fact that it took two years from the closure of the Inquiry for the Department simply to publish the report.

Waterways World - November 1994

OUR THANKS to Paul Herbert for all his hard work in putting together the revised Constitution.

I HAVE - HAVE YOU booked space for a small canal exhibition at the local library? (Don't book March though, because I will need the exhibits - Chairman)

ALMOST TO THE MINUTE. NEWSLETTER 105 (October 1977) announced among the FORTHCOMING EVENTS, that at 8.00pm on 3rd November 1977 Frances Hart - then of British Waterways - would speak on 'Canal Architecture in Britain'. Just 17 years - to the minute(?) - before revisiting us at our last meeting.



Southampton Canal Society Sales

Embossed Ball Point Pens 50p

Fibre Tip Pens 75p

GEO projects Maps.

Basingstoke Canal £2.50

Oxford Canal £3.75

Kennet & Avon Canal £3.25

Notelets, with line drawings of canal scenes, by your Chairman.

Screen Printed Tee Shirts £6.50

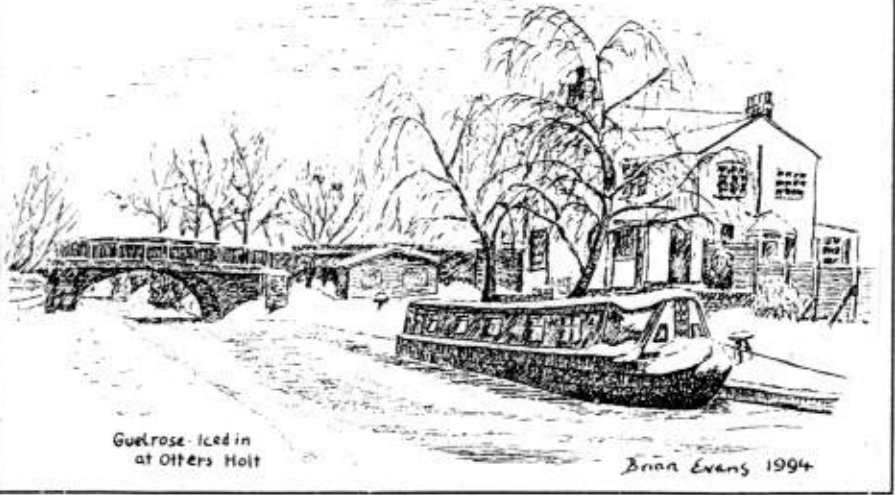
in Navy - large & extra large

in Red - medium

Embroidered Sweat Shirts £15.00

in Navy - medium

in Bright Royal - medium



IN A RECENT SPEECH the Home Secretary proposed putting criminals to work "clearing canal banks". Good idea Mr Howard. Any chance of you having a quiet word with your DoT juniors and asking them to stop filling them in and building bypasses on them?

WRG 25th BIRTHDAY DIG. WRG are pleased to announce that it will be holding a major protest dig on November 4th/5th 1995. The Cotswold Canals Trust have been fighting a DoE inquiry into the Latton Bypass which threatens to obliterate an essential length of the Thames and Severn Canal. The Trust has been going from strength to strength of late (with an excellent team under the superb leadership of Nick Wright and Neil Ritchie). Helped by the Dig Deep initiative great advances have been made both on a physical and political level. However the Latton Bypass threatens to render both current and future work pointless.

The precise numbers required (400+) mean that this does not quite warrant the title BIG DIG however DIG 95 (snappy title) will be WRG's most important event in 1995 and yet again will show that in its 25th year WRG is as powerful as ever and still campaigning to stop blinkered authorities from destroying canals.

Full details will follow later but WRG felt that as much notice as possible was necessary to allow everyone to keep the dates clear.

NAVVIERS NOV/DEC 1994

GLOSSARY OF BRICKLAYING TERMS.

(1) The bricks:

Headers	The reason why you wear a hard-hat when someone is bricklaying above you.
Stretchers	What you are likely to need if you don't wear a hard-hat when someone is bricklaying above you.
Frogs	Small green amphibians often found in locks while bricklaying is going on. They may need rescuing as the mortar can be harmful to them.

(2) The mortar:

Lean mix	We're running out of cement.
Dry lean mix	We're running out of water as well.
Three to one	One person mixing, three watching.
Lime	Seldom seen on modern working parties. Old timers remember the early days, before lunchtime drinking was frowned on, when people mixed it with lager.

(3) Other terms:

Pointing	Self-explanatory, eg. "I say, can you see that big crack over there?"
Bond	This term is used by advanced bluffers who like to pretend that they know more than one way of laying bricks. Typical examples are the English Bond, the Flemish Bond, and (often found on Essex waterways) the Basildon Bond.

STRANGE FACT about Standedge Tunnel on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Well known as being the longest canal tunnel built (3 miles 135 yards) and also the highest above mean sea level (644ft 9in), if it had been built level in the vertical plane, the headroom in the centre would have been two feet less than at the ends. Why? Because of its length and the curvature of the earth, the water in the middle would have been 2 feet deeper.

PLEASE NOTE that TEXACO stamps will cease to be of value after the end of January 1995.

ANDERTON LIFT. The foundation of the Anderton Boat Lift Trust was announced on 3rd October. The Trust will oversee the restoration and subsequent operation of the lift and was given a flying start by the announcement of a £50,000 grant from English Heritage and a donation of £1,000 from the Trent & Mersey Canal Society. British Waterways are to lease the lift to the Trust to facilitate the complicated financial arrangements involved. As much as possible of the original structure will be retained, subject to structural engineering and safety requirements. The 1908 design philosophy, operation and general appearance will also be maintained. BW engineers suggest work could start in April 1995 if the finances were assured and that it would then be possible to open the lift in the summer of 1987.