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NEWSLETTER No. 240 FEBRUARY 1991

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 7th February - 'The Chichester Canal' by John Cooper, Chairman of the Chichester Canal Society.
- 7th March - Lister/Petter Marine. History of Marine Diesels for waterway use. Present day use, hints and tips.
- 4th April - 'Bristol or Bust' by Jon Sims. Illustrated account of a recent hire boat trip from Trowbridge to Bristol and return.
- 16th - 19th May - Exhibition Stand at Community Festival '91, Chandlers Ford.

DECEMBER MEETING. Les Osborn opened the evening by showing slides of various types of boat decoration to be seen on British waterways. Some styles have become regarded as traditional while more modern individual designs are appearing.

Most of the paintings contained castles or roses & daisy designs and Les pointed out the features by which they differed. It was possible to recognise features in some of the older designs from which a boat yard or area could be identified.

Les had primed and prepared several boards with the basics of boat decoration and the audience were invited to complete flowers etc. Paints of several colours were available and brushes of all sizes. All that remained was for members to prove to themselves that Les had made the demonstration look easy. Our thanks to him for all the preparation work that he had put in before the meeting.

Those present finished the evening off by taking part in the usual American supper and as always there was a large supply of various types of good food.

JANUARY MEETING. The popularity of the subject, 'The Crofton Pumping Station' ensured a good start to 1991. Peter Hiron, 'Chairman of the Crofton Society' gave us a lively and entertaining talk and slide show on the history, restoration and conservation of the pumping station. Many of those present had visited Crofton but it was good to have the 'workings' explained to us. Most would agree that the pumps are not as simple as they look at first glance.

It was also obvious to us that the restoration and maintenance is a never ending task, performed by a dedicated group of volunteers which contains many experts of all sorts.

Peter appealed for volunteers, both to help with restoration & maintenance and for the many jobs that have to be performed on 'steaming weekends'.

THANKS to Graham Smith for committee work and for being our Treasurer for a while. Graham's job means that he will be in London during the week and will not be able to attend meetings for sometime.

Les Osborn has taken over the job of treasurer and membership and Eric Lewis has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee.

CANALS AND CONNECTIONS. Losehill Hall, The Peak National Park Study Centre, is running a course called 'Canals and Connections' from 17th to 24th August 1991. Further details including the program and costs from the Chairman.

**Crofton
Beam
Engines**

Crofton steaming weekends in 1991

30-31 March, 1 April
25-26-27 May
29-30 June
24-25-26 August
28-29 September
26-27 October

JERRY SKINNER. We sadly report the death of Jerry Skinner. A resident of Worthing, Jerry had recently become Chairman of the IWA Solent & Arun Branch and was quite involved with the waterways of the area.

He was a leading influence on the restoration of the Chichester Canal and organiser of the annual cruise up the River Arun to Pulborough. Some years ago Jerry gave our members an illustrated talk on the Portsmouth and Arun Canal. His help and influence will be missed by waterways enthusiasts in the South.

THE SOCIETY EXHIBITION STAND will get its first airing for some time at the Community Festival '91 to be held at St Boniface Church Centre, Chandlers Ford.

The aim of the Festival is to inform people living in the area of all the clubs and activities that are available to them. Over 50 groups will be taking part.

FESTIVAL '91 will run from 16th to 19th May 1991 and will be open as follows:-

Thursday (16th) 7.30pm - 9.00pm Friday (17th) Noon - 8.00pm

Saturday (18th) 10.00am - 9.00pm Sunday (19th) 2.00pm - 8.00pm

Lunch and Tea will be available in the hall (Chairman has a menu) and light refreshments will be available at all times.

Though profiteering would be frowned upon, some fund raising (small sales) would be quite acceptable - so we need the stand manned for as long as possible - volunteers please.

On the Saturday the Chairman has booked a room from 4.00pm to 6.00pm for slide shows - the first hour on Inland Waterways followed by Eastleigh Twinning. (You don't have to attend both, but please tell your friends).

HIGHLIGHTS from the latest NAVVY'S DIARY.

- 9 - 10 February - WILTS & BERKS CANAL. Mega jungle bashing at Wantage. Several very large trees have to be cut down and burnt as well as the usual smaller stuff, so there should be no danger of the bonfires going out.
- 23 - 24 February - LANCASTER CANAL. A new site! Clearance work on the portals and path over Hincaster Tunnel in preparation for WRGNA to relay and drain the path. Lancaster Canal Trust have a grant for it.
- 16 - 17 March - HANWELL, GRAND UNION CANAL. A unique opportunity to help restore a working BW waterway. The work is restoring the side ponds on the Hanwell flight.
- 29 March - 6 April - HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER CANAL. Rediscover a fascinating canal. Was Oxenhall Tunnel really that low or is it a film set for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

BASINGSTOKE SSSI The Nature Conservancy Council has postponed its proposed designation of a 25 mile length of the Basingstoke Canal as a Site of Special Scientific Interest until after the next Canal Joint Management Committee Meeting in the Spring. This postponement is intended to give the Canal Director time to pursue a resolution of the conflict between the NCC's proposals for severe restrictions on boating and the interests of the many individuals and authorities which have promoted restoration of the canal for pleasure craft use.

BRITISH WATERWAYS INFORMATION.

November 1990

The safety of users and visitors to canals owned by British Waterways will soon be further safeguarded by the introduction of standards that will govern many aspects of the construction and equipping of privately owned pleasure boats and houseboats on such waterways and are an extension of those introduced in 1980 for houseboats and pleasure boats let out for hire to holiday makers.

They have been prepared by British Waterways working closely with representatives of boat designers and builders, marine engineers and surveyors, local authorities, the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council and prominent user groups representing all boating customers. Consultation with many of these groups was conducted before a decision to introduce the standards was taken.

The target date, for introduction of the scheme, when it will become a requirement for Certificates of Compliance to accompany all new licensing applications - and renewals for boats constructed from 1981 onwards - is 1st August 1991. Certificates can be valid for up to four years.

In the February edition of Waterways World it says that following opposition from river users, British Waterways have acknowledged that river users whose craft do not use the canals will not be required to bring their craft up to standard in the immediate future. However, BW's General Powers Bill, currently before Parliament includes the necessary powers to enforce compliance. This may become law by next summer and BW have stated that they will consider a schedule for enforcement of their requirements for certification of river craft thereafter.

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