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& Co

NEWSLETTER No. 261 FEBRUARY 1993

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- 4th February - Historic Portsmouth by George Haysom. (Mr Haysom spoke to us in July 1991 on HMS Warrior)
4th March - The Wey Navigation by Bob Nicholls of The National Trust.
1st April - "No job for a gentleman" by Commander Compton-Hall, RN Retd., MBE. History & development of the submarine by the Director of the RN submarine museum at HMS Haslar.

DECEMBER MEETING. This was one of our more entertaining evenings when Peter Berry (deputising for his father) of the New Forest Owl Sanctuary came to talk to us about their work. He brought along three beautiful owls and gave us many details about the size, life, food, habits, etc. of each. We learned many facts that quite changed our fixed ideas about owls. Having the birds present particularly pleased several children who were at the meeting. Peter told us that, at that time, they had 59 barn owls at the sanctuary and many other types as well.

If any member who was not at the meeting would like to visit the sanctuary please ask the Chairman for a leaflet.

The latter part of the meeting (a lot less than half) was taken up with the American supper. As usual there was ample food and our thanks once again to Joyce Mayhew and her helpers for providing the tea.

JANUARY MEETING. For those who think a talk on British Waterways Boat Standards would be boring, a visit to Southampton Canal Society for the January meeting would have changed all that.

George Gibson, a retired Naval Commander (Engineer), with service from 1949-1983, had no colour slides but was quite proficient with blackboard and chalk. George is now a marine surveyor specialising on canal boats and piece by piece went through B.W. Standards explaining what they mean and how they should be applied, illustrating his point with clear diagrams.

Some of the Standards now being applied to private boats have been in force with hire boats for about 10 years and George explained that most of them were common sense to protect the boat owners - or those moored next to them!

In between all the rules he told several little stories about experiences in the Navy and also on the canals when surveying boats, nearly every paragraph ended in a laugh. This was a very entertaining evening.

Only a couple of members left before 22.30 hrs and the Society 'boaties' were still picking his brains until 23.10!

GRANADA TV are excavating Lock One of the Manchester and Salford Junction Canal at its junction with the River Irwell in Manchester. The Lock has been buried under a Granada owned car park since the mid 1950s.

CANAL CAMPS 1993 - dates now available. See the Chairman.

FROM NAVVIES No.136 Jan-Feb 1993 (Waterways Recovery Group)

In common with many voluntary organisations, we are likely to find 1993 a lean year and as I write this, I am struggling with an intractable budget for the coming year. Many of our operating costs, such as vehicle insurance, have rocketed, whereas our income remains static

I am always grateful to those of you who are able to include a donation with your subscription renewal and it will never have been so important as during this year.

I know that there are ever increasing demands on a decreasing amount of cash, but if you can manage a little extra donation it will allow us to maintain our activities at their present level.

ALAN JERVIS

1. WATER TRANSFER. It was announced last month that the Water Transfer Engineering and Environmental Feasability Study has been awarded to Binnie & Partners, consulting engineers. The announcement that this study is being progressed is welcomed by the National Rivers Authority as the potential use of canals for transfer of water could be a key factor in seeking alternative supplies at an affordable cost.
 2. GENERAL POWERS BILL. It is expected that there should be a second reading of the British Waterways General Powers Bill in the House of Commons in January.
 3. BERLINERS VISIT OUR CANALS. Planners and architects from Berlin joined a fact finding visit to British Waterways in October. They visited London Canals to see how British Waterways had achieved improvements in the canal environment and recreational opportunities. Robin Gray, recreational manager London canals, said "They were impressed by what they saw in London and hope to take back a wealth of experience with them, where the removal of the wall has given Berlin an opportunity to unify its waterways."
 4. JUDY GRICE has been appointed head of environmental planning and design following the announcement of Peter White's retirement. Peter will be retained as a consultant on a two days a week basis.
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EXTRACTS FROM GuarDsmAn. (Newsletter of IWA Guildford & Reading and Solent & Arun branches)

1. BASINGSTOKE CANAL. Because of the wet summer last year the Basingstoke Canal should be able to re-open once the pump is working in the Frimley pound, but it is likely to be closed again from September 1993 to March 1994 to allow a new aqueduct to be built.
 2. Also on the Basingstoke, an electronic boat counter has been fitted to give the Conservation Working Party a more accurate idea of the actual traffic. This amazing piece of equipment not only counts the passage of a boat but records its length, direction of travel and speed.
 3. Free 12-page Basingstoke Canal newspaper available. Send large (9x5) SAE to Canal Office, Government Road, Aldershot.
 4. CRUISES AND QUIZZES. The 1992 Hamble Cruise was well supported considering the weather forecast for the day, with eight boats taking part, among them a Caracruiser Starship coming all the way from Princes Risborough to enjoy some torrential Hampshire rain. £22.50 was raised in donations.
 5. The 1993 River Arun Cruise will be on Sunday 2nd May and there could be a cruise on the River Adur, as it is a few years since the branch held one there. Also a canal quiz is being planned for next Autumn. Hopefully there will be more details in a future newsletter.
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ROCHDALE CANAL. In February 1991 a new winding hole at Sowerby Bridge was opened. Then it seemed that this would be the limit of restoration of the Eastern end of Rochdale Canal, about 200 yards from the Calder and Hebble Navigation and the rest of the system.

In December 1992 it was announced that a £2.5m Derelict Land Grant had been allocated by the Department of the Environment to remove the blockage. The grant is one of the largest DLGs made for a canal restoration project. The scheme includes the construction of a 100 yard tunnel, a 19ft 6in lock and the reopening of the canal channel through a public car park. Work is expected to start in the Autumn of 1993 with completion in Spring 1995.

CHICHESTER CANAL. There are to be work parties on the Canal in conjunction with WRG on the weekends of 6/7th and 27/28th March 1993. Any volunteers to help would be welcomed.

Fun Run/Sponsored Walk - This event will take place on 4th April. Do we have a volunteer to represent Southampton Canal Society this year following Mike Smetham's effort in 1992. He raised over £65.
