



Newsletter

February 1999

Issue 328

CYCLING PROPOSALS FOR K&A CANAL

British Waterways has recently requested comments regarding its proposals to provide facilities for increased levels of cycling on the Kennet & Avon Canal. This consultation has been initiated separately from the recent draft Kennet & Avon Canal Conservation Plan published by the Kennet & Avon Canal Partnership (in which BW is a partner). IWA has responded to British Waterways, setting out a number of concerns.

The Association's initial concern is that the cycling proposals are being addressed in a separate consultation, when the issue is covered in greater depth within the Kennet & Avon Conservation Plan. The proposals include the incorporation of lengths of towing path into Sustrans' National Cycle Network (NCN).

In order for Sustrans to qualify for National grants to cover the work (which would, understandably, be attractive for BW) the improvements must be complete by Easter 2000 - which may be too short a time-scale if the proposals were fully considered as part of the Kennet & Avon Canal Partnership's Conservation Plan only.

IWA has informed BW of its belief that consultation on the proposals is being 'rushed through' so that works can be completed on time - but at the potential expense of full and proper consideration and mitigation of the potential conflicts that are likely to be created.

IWA's other concerns centre on safety, amenity and user

conflict issues. The Association's policy regarding cycling on towing paths states that a four metre wide hard surfaced track should be provided, with the two metres nearest the waters' edge reserved for pedestrians, anglers etc, only. Where these dimensions cannot be accommodated by the existing path, IWA believes the cycle path should be accommodated elsewhere.

IWA is particularly concerned that many of the proposals are for a two metre wide mixed use path with no user segregation. The Association believes that this will increase danger to pedestrians, there will be problems in policing the speed of cyclists and their use of non-designated stretches of the towing path and also that the rural ambience of the canal may be threatened if vegetation is removed to accommodate a wider, hard surfaced path.

IWA also emphasised the need for a cycling permit scheme (already included within the price of a BW boat licence) to ensure that cyclists contribute towards the maintenance costs of the path, but pointed out that there may be problems in policing compliance with this. There is also potential for further conflict as the Association understands that access to the National Cycling Network does not at present require any permit.

IWA has requested the provision of more detailed supporting information regarding the scheme before it is taken any further.

IWA Head Office Bulletin - January 1999

CANAL SUPPORTERS LOBBY GOVERNMENT

Campaigners promoting the restoration of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals - due to be severed by the Birmingham Northern Relief Road - have renewed calls on Government to review the decision not to provide a navigable culvert and aqueduct for the canals when the road is built. The Minister for Waterways, Alan Meale MP, has promised to consider a new paper put forward by leading campaigner, Chris Coburn, who met the minister at the recent International Boat Show in London.

The Public Inquiry into the road, held in 1994-5, gave support to almost all requests by the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust that the structures required to permit the restored Canals to cross the route of the BNRR should be provided by the developers. The Public Inquiry Inspector advised that substantial weight be attached to the Local Plan policies supporting restoration and that non-provision "would substantially prejudice the canal restoration".

Since Secretary of State John Prescott made the decision to reject the clear recommendations of the Inspector and authorise the road's construction without a requirement

for the developers to provide the necessary structures, waterways enthusiasts have been left sickened by the Government's indifference.

Sustained attempts by campaigners to lobby Government have been facelessly parried away by statements that a "statutory decision" had been taken which could "not be altered". At the same time, the Government continues to state that it is "keen to exploit the enormous potential of the waterways, not only for the contribution that they can make to an integrated transport system, but also as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration and for stimulating leisure and tourism". In requiring that the necessary structures be put in place, the Government would have to commit **no** extra public funds as the scheme is to be entirely funded from private sources.

Thanks to relentless campaigning, however, there may be a small chance for a reprieve. Chris Coburn reminded the Government in a letter to Lord Whitty, the Minister for Roads, that "future generations will either view your decision as:

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SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

Chairman:

Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8FN. Tel: 01794 517115

Secretary:

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Hampshire, SO40 2SS. Tel: 01703 860384

Treasurer & Membership:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614

Committee:

Martin Cripps
Paul Herbert
Peter Oates
David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel: 01794 517614

MEETINGS

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

- 4th Feb** "The Ups and Downs of Belgian Waterways" - Ron and Myra Glover
- 4th March** Members' Slide Evening
- 1st April** "Wilts & Berks Canal Restoration" with Clem Barnett
- 6th May** Day Star Theatre
- 3rd June** AGM followed by Waterway Videos
- 1st July** Talk by Neil Kearns of the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society
- 5th August** Ray Brooks will be Demonstrating Canal Crafts
- 7th Oct** A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association

January Meeting

Mild but unpredictable weather made travel to the January meeting easier than in some previous years; also by January 7th most of the members had had time to recover from their New Year's hangovers. Coupled with the fact that John Silman was our speaker, a good sized audience turned up on the night. On previous occasions, at least four, John has proved to be an extremely interesting speaker and his talk "The History of Water Mills and Windmills" was true to form.

We learned how both types of mill developed over the years and also many of the technicalities regarding building, working and maintenance. John showed some slides of local historic pictures and it was interesting to note changes that have taken place in locations that we know.

As with canals, there are mill restorations taking place, often with a lot of volunteer effort and it is good to know that even if the machinery will sometimes not be working, at least the buildings will be there to help preserve and improve many a scene.

We left the meeting knowing a lot more about mills and milling and no doubt most of us will be keeping our eyes open for these distinctive features when we are out and about in likely situations.

INLAND WATERWAYS INTERNATIONAL

Over the years, in addition to British waterways, we have had talks on canals and rivers in Ireland, USA, Canada, China, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and maybe other countries. You will agree, a very international scene! I am a member of Inland Waterways International, a society with similar aims to the Inland Waterways Association, but on worldwide basis. As with our own waterways, there are many places in the world where publicity, restoration etc are needed and this young society is doing its best to begin filling the gap. If anyone would like to know more, I would be pleased to give them information and show them copies of our magazine "World Wide Waterways".

Annegret Evans

Members' Slides Evening

Please remember that you will have the opportunity of showing some of your slides at the March meeting. You should put together between 10 and 20 pictures that might be of interest to other members. To help with the organisation, please let Eric Lewis know your intention by the February meeting.

Le Canal de Berry

I recently purchased a new book from France entitled "Le Canal de Berry" by René Chambareau and Christelle Jamot-Robert.

Knowing that we have Francophiles among our SCS members, I will bring my copy along to the February and March meetings for anyone interested to inspect.

Should anyone wish to purchase a copy, it can be obtained for 110 French Francs from Musée du canal de Berry, René Chambareau, Les Vignauds, 03190 REUGNY, FRANCE.

Cheques should be made payable to:

Amicale laïque de Reugny. CCP 937 49H Clermont Fd.

Brian Evans

Distributed by: Hunt & Co, Chartered Accountants, 123/124 High Street, Southampton, SO14 2AA. Tel: 01703 225255

Bits and Pieces

Did you see? Eric Lewis had an article published in the December 1998 issue of Canal & Riverboat about the Itchen Navigation. Well done.

IWA Avon & Wilts Branch AGM - This is to be held at the Swan Inn, Stoford (on A36 Warminster road about 5 miles NW of Salisbury city centre) on Saturday 20 March 1999. To be followed by buffet then skittles. Buffet (£6.00) to be booked by 6th March. Contact Tony Fry on 01722 710192.

IWA Solent and Arun Branch AGM - This will held on SS Shieldhall, Ocean Village, Southampton on Sunday 21 March 1999 at 2.00pm. Tea and cakes will be available. The meeting will be followed by a guided tour of the ship. All most welcome.

Huddersfield Narrow Canal - The well known visitor centre at Tunnel End Cottages in Marsden at the north eastern end of Standedge Tunnel on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal has closed as the lease on the buildings held by Kirklees Council from BW ran out at the end of December and is not being renewed. The cottages will remain closed whilst work on the tunnel is in progress, but will eventually become incorporated in 'The Standedge Experience', along with the nearby warehouse, upon re-opening of the tunnel.

River Wey & Godalming Navigations - A major restoration of Millmead Lock, Guildford will mean its closure to navigation for a period of 8 weeks between 2nd April and 26th May.

Wey & Arun Canal - Wey & Arun Canal Trust have signed a lease for nearly a mile of the canal at Dunsfold from British Aerospace. The section of canal runs alongside the south eastern boundary of Dunsfold Aerodrome and the line of the canal was largely cleared by a series of winter Canal Camps about 5 years ago. The intention of the Trust is to dredge this section of canal and bring it back into service. Ownership of this part of the canal passed to the operators of Dunsfold Aerodrome when it was built by the Canadian Airforce during World War II.

Lichfield and Hatherton Canals

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- a victory of common sense, or
- an amazing act of official vandalism."

Earlier, IWA's National Chairman, Richard Drake, and Executive Director, Neil Edwards, met the Minister amongst a delegation of waterway user groups and lobbied the same point, reminding the Minister of unfulfilled promises from his predecessors to produce binding Government Policy that would safeguard future waterways under restoration from future road construction.

Richard Drake said today, "In future our descendants will ask 'why did they block that vital canal route with a motorway?' What will we be able to tell them? There *is* no reasonable explanation. We sincerely hope that the Government recognises this error of judgement and has the courage to put it right. If the BNRR goes ahead as planned, it will be a sad reminder to future generations of how not to do things."

IWA Press Release - 26/01/99

CANAL SOCIETY SALES STAND

GEOProjects Maps

Inland Waterways of Britain	£4.75
Basingstoke Canal	£3.00
Birmingham Canal Navigations	£3.75
The Broads	£3.75
Caledonian Canal & the Great Glen	£3.75
Coventry & Ashby Canals NEW!	£3.75
Grand Union Canal (each).....	£3.75
Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford	
Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley	
Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames	
Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash	
Kennet & Avon Canal	£3.75
Llangollen and Montgomery Canals	£3.75
London - City and Docklands Atlas	£3.75
Oxford Canal	£3.75
Shropshire Union Canal	£3.75
The Thames Map	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal COMING SOMETIME!	£3.75

Ball Point Pens – Embossed 50p

Burgees – Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo on each side £8.00

Decorated Mugs £2.25

Notelets – with drawings of canal and Romsey scenes £1.00
(by Brian Evans)

Shopper Bags – Cotton with screen-printed Society logo each side . £2.25

Society Members Badges – Enamel 75p

Sweat Shirts – 30th Anniversary in Light Grey £16.00
with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

Sweat Shirts – Standard in Navy or Royal Blue £15.00
with Society logo embroidered on breast

Tea Towels – Various colourful designs £2.50 & £3.25

Tee Shirts – Screen printed with Society logo across chest £6.50
in Navy Blue - medium, large & extra large
in Red - medium

Visit the Sales Stand at Society meetings and place your orders with Paul Herbert or Ray Brooks.

WATERWAYS DIARY 1999

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton during the first half of this year. Hopefully you can find something to interest you. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Thu 04/02/99 7:45pm. *Southampton Canal Society* - Ups and Downs of Belgian Waterways. Contact Eric Lewis on 01703 860384

Tue 09/02/99 8:00pm. *Surrey & Hants Canal Society* - Direct TV from Alexandra Palace by Arthur Dungate. Meet at Westgate Centre, Woking. Contact Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896

Thu 18/02/99 7:30pm. *IWA Avon & Wilts. Branch* - Waterway and Steam videos by Mitchell Videos. Meet at Sabrina, Bristol Docks. Contact Di & David Payne on 0117 987 9456

Mon 22/02/99 8:00pm. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - Waterways Nostalgia by Aileen Butler. Meet at Byfleet Boat Club. Contact Paul Fisher on 01372 843569

Thu 04/03/99 7:45pm. *Southampton Canal Society* - Members' Slide Evening. Contact Eric Lewis on 01703 860384

Tue 09/03/99 8:00pm. *Surrey & Hants Canal Society* - Roosting Bats & Waterways by Frank Greenway. Westgate Centre, Woking. Contact Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896

Thu 18/03/99 7.30pm. *IWA Salisbury Group* - Meeting cancelled as Branch AGM now to be held on Saturday 20th. Contact Tony Fry on 01722 710192.

Sat 20/03/99 2.00pm - 7.00pm. *IWA Avon & Wilts Branch* - Branch AGM at Swan Inn, Stoford (on A36 Warminster road NW of Salisbury). To be followed by buffet then skittles. Buffet (£6.00) to be booked by 6th March. Contact Tony Fry on 01722 710192.

Sun 21/03/99 2.00pm. *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Branch AGM on board SS Shieldhall, Ocean Village Southampton. To be followed by guided tour of the ship. Tea and cake available. All welcome.

Mon 22/03/99 8:00pm. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - Branch AGM followed by Canal Artefacts by Norman Woolley. Meet at Byfleet Boat Club. Contact Paul Fisher on 01372 843569

Thu 01/04/99 7:45pm. *Southampton Canal Society* - Wilts & Berks Canal Restoration by Clem Barnett. Contact Eric Lewis on 01703 860384

Mon 19/04/99 8:00pm. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - Supporting rights of inland navigation by Chris Coburn. Meet at Byfleet Boat Club. Contact Paul Fisher on 01372 843569

Sat 01/05/99. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - Backwater Cruise on Old Woking Stream of the River Wey. Boats up to 50ft long. Visit site of Tudor palace. Non-boat owners may be able to hitch a lift. Contact Andy Simmonds on 01483 576176.

Sun 02/05/99. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - St Patrick's Stream Cruise on River Thames. Contact Andy Simmonds on 01483 576176.

Sun 02/05/99. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - "Beyond the Tunnel" walk on Basingstoke Canal. Contact Andy Simmonds on 01483 576176.

Sun 02/05/99. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch / Wey & Arun Canal Trust* - Canoe and Dinghy Paddle at Loxwood, Wey and Arun Canal. Contact Andy Simmonds on 01483 576176.

Mon 03/05/99. *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* - Towpath Walk from Newbury to Kintbury on Kennet & Avon Canal. Contact Andy Simmonds on 01483 576176.

Thu 06/05/99 7:45pm. *Southampton Canal Society* - Day Star Theatre. Contact Eric Lewis on 01703 860384

Sun 16/05/99. *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Arun Navigation Campaign Cruise between Pulborough and Pallingham. (The 17th running of the popular annual cruise to the head of navigation, campaigning for channel maintenance.) Last year there were 20 boats and 38 people. Why not join them? Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Thu 20/05/99 7.30pm. *IWA Salisbury Group* - To be announced. Contact Tony Fry on 01722 710192.

Thu 03/06/99 7:45pm. *Southampton Canal Society* - AGM followed by Waterway Videos. Contact Eric Lewis on 01703 860384

Sun 13/06/99. *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Adur Adventure Cruise between Shoreham and Henfield: a 20 mile return 'marathon' flotilla cruise beating the tide into the Sussex downland. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Fri 16/07/99. *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Chichester Channel Cruise: Itchenor - Fishbourne. An easy paced flotilla cruise in search of a pub lunch and a lost quay in Chichester Harbour's most attractive arm. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Sun 22/08/99 *Chichester Canal Society / IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Chichester Canal Water Fair. Fun event in support of restoration of the Ship Canal and exploration of restored section. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Sun 12/09/99. *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - River Hamble Cruise from Swanwick to Curbridge and Botley. Autumn cruise to a double destination using Hampshire's unique double tides. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

First Wednesday in most months - IWA Dorchester Group meets. Contact Graham Pugh on 01305 262305.

Throughout the year - Wey & Arun Canal Trust run cruises on n/b *Zachariah Keppel* on the restored canal. Information from John Lisk on 01493 752403.

Throughout the year - Chichester Canal Society run cruises on n/b *Egremont* on the canal from Chichester. Information from John Cooper on 01243 671051.