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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7th June - A G M - followed by a Cine Film from the Shell Film Library
5th July - The History and Restoration of the Mid Hants Railway
2nd August - Members Slides
6th September - David Laing - Canal trip round England

MAY MEETING Apart from the fact that the audience should have been larger the May meeting was one of the most pleasant and relaxed that we have had.

Our speaker, Mike O'Brien, was very much at ease as he told us about his job as a coastguard. There are many aspects to this interesting and demanding career.

His lively account brought many questions from members of the Society. The evening was rounded off by the 16mm film, that Mike brought along, and which illustrated many points of the talk.

DONATIONS Following Hugh McKnight's talk in February £20 has been sent to the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port and £20 to the fund for a defibrillator, being raised by the Coast Guard Social and Welfare Fund, as suggested by Mike O'Brien, our speaker in May.

MANY THANKS to Bill Jones our retiring treasurer. For some years Bill has kept the books - to quote Auditors - "in very good order". We wish him well with his golf & bridge and hope that he will enjoy drifting along to meetings to take his seat on the back benches.

ALSO many thanks to Tony Coles who is stepping down from Committee after 4 years. BUT he will still be helping to compose & type the Newsletter and Jackie will also be purchasing the tea-time goodies. In fact, thanks to both of them.

TALKING of tea-time, to keep pace with inflation, it has been decided that from the JULY meeting onwards the price of tea & biscuit will be 20p.

HAVE YOU changed your address recently. Please let the new treasurer know.

PLEASE NOTE that as soon as the A G M is over - subscriptions for the new year become due.

JACK DALBY We are sad to report the death of Jack Dalby. He was a prominent member of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, Newbury Branch and for nearly twenty years editor of 'The Butty', the K & A Canal Trust quarterly magazine.

An enthusiastic worker for the waterways cause, Jack was also a leading light in the movement to begin restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

On three occasions he entertained Southampton Canal Society members with slide shows of the K & A and Wilts & Berks and his enthusiasm was quite inspiring.

One special event in the Trust's history for which Jack will be remembered was his part in restoring Bull's Lock near Thatcham which was achieved by Trust volunteers with advice from the late Inspector Rogers of British Waterways.

Lock 3B on the Caen Hill Flight has been named 'Jack Dalby Lock'. A fitting tribute but after all his work it is doubly sad that Jack will not be there at the official opening.

RON & MYRA GLOVER inform us that a Salisbury Inland Waterways Association Local Group is in the process of being formed. Members will be meeting socially in the bar of The Liberal Club on Wednesday 27th June at 7.30pm. Bill Woodward has kindly offered to sign in guests for the evening.

The official launch of the Local Group will be on Tuesday 16th October 1990 in the Wyvern Room, The Liberal Club, 2-4 Salt Lane, Salisbury, commencing at 7.30pm

After the official launch, ANTHONY BURTON will talk. Non I.W.A. members will be welcome at the launch.

WATERWAYS MUSEUM If you were not on the recent Society coach outing and have not yet visited the National Waterways Museum at Gloucester then please find time to do so in the future.

Set in the interesting and lively docks the converted warehouse is probably the most fascinating museum you will ever visit. Certainly for all ages it provides a complete waterways education in an absorbing and stimulating manner.

Our thanks to Martin Cripps for making all the arrangements for a most enjoyable day out.

CANALS ON TELEVISION There are at present two programmes on television about canals and rivers in England and Europe.

On Wednesdays at 6.00pm on Channel 4 there is a 13 part series called 'Leontyne' which is following the travels of an ex-Thames tug on its journey from London to Vienna through the canals and rivers of Europe.

On Fridays at 7.30pm on BBC2 there is a series of 4 programmes called 'A Summer Journey' in which Angela Rippon travels the entire length of the Kennet & Avon Canal from Reading to Bath.

Unfortunately, by the time you read this newsletter, you will have missed the first 4 instalments of 'Leontyne' but only the first episode of 'A Summer Journey'.

BRITISH WATERWAYS NEWS RELEASES

CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES K & A TRUST

19th May 1990

The Chairman of British Waterways, Mr. David Ingram, today addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust and confirmed that, so long as the trust and local authorities continue to support the canal financially, British Waterways would actively support the further upgrading to Cruising Waterway standard of the Kennet & Avon Canal, which reaches a milestone in its history on 8th August this year when HM The Queen reopens the canal.

He stated British Waterways' support for the partnership's long term aim for continuous cruising, and their determination to help while the Trust and local authorities continue their drive to upgrade the canal. "We are relining part of the canal this year, which we will fund ourselves to the extent of £1.2 million," he said.

K & A CRAFTY RAFT RACE

8th May 1990

On Monday 7th May, many people discovered the K & A Canal for the first time when they visited to watch or partake in the annual Round Table Crafty raft Race between Hungerford and Newbury.

Strict rules to ensure safety for all are observed, but this did not limit the fun and enjoyment along the race's course from Dunmill, near Hungerford, to Newbury Wharf.

WATER SUPPLY

2nd May 1990

In the wake of the current heatwave, the possibility that this summer may be as dry as last year's scorcher and with the prospect looming of domestic water shortages in some parts of the country, British Waterways issued a confident message today to the million or so people who will want to enjoy boating on their 2000 miles of canals and river navigations this year.

"It will be plain sailing on the canals this summer as long as boaters and other users abide by simple rules, exercise good husbandry and show courtesy to fellow users," said John Taylor, British Waterways' Water Development Manager.

"Water is our prime asset, but we need continuing supplies to maintain navigation and healthy fish stocks. Our storage reservoirs depend on rain for replenishment, just like those used for public water supply."

ALGAE AT B.W. RESERVOIRS

16th May 1990

British Waterways have instructed their Reservoir Keepers to watch for seasonal growth of blue/green algae, but stress that there is no risk to reservoir visitors, provided they do not enter the water, or to canal users.

This follows advice by the National Rivers Authority, Britain's water pollution monitoring body, that they have found blue/green algae which may be toxic on a number of British lakes, reservoirs and pools. Two sites are owned by British Waterways, who maintain regular contact with the N.R.A.

Blue/green algae occurs naturally in fresh water but may produce toxic blooms in hot, settled conditions such as prevailed during the summer of 1989 when there were problems at a number of sites. The mild winter and hot April are thought to have contributed to their early appearance this year.