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HUNT
& Co

NEWSLETTER No. 244 JUNE 1991

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

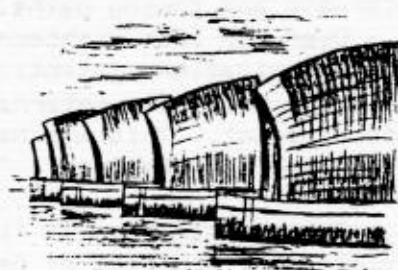
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 6th June - AGM - followed by video on the changing face of British Waterways
- 4th July - 'HMS Warrior 1860'. History, Restoration and Preservation.
- 1st August - Members Slides.
- 5th September - 'Engineering on Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and Associated Waterways' by BWB speaker.
- 3rd October - 'Boat Museum - Ellesmere Port' - Tony Hirst, Director.
- 7th November - Hugh McKnight - 'European Waterways'.

MAY MEETING. Thanks to Martin Cripps for arranging an enjoyable programme and also for projecting the two 16mm films. Members learned how the Thames Barrier was constructed and also an underwater tunnel in Hong Kong. A 20 minute video entitled 'On the Cut' was also shown.

THANKS to those who turned up at our stall at the Community Festival at Chandlers Ford - your help and support was appreciated. Although no one was rushed off their feet a number of contacts were made and the Chairman already has one talk booked for April 1992 as a result.

HAVE YOU VISITED the THAMES BARRIER? Come along on the coach with the Ordnance Survey Cine Club. £5.00 return fare. Entrance to the exhibition or boat trip round the barrier are not included. This leaves them optional and also enables senior citizens to obtain reductions. Coach leaves Ordnance Survey Office at 9.00am, Saturday 15th June, returning about 7.00pm. We also hope to spend some time at Greenwich Pier where close by are the 'Cutty Sark' and 'Gipsy Moth IV' - or a walk under the Thames through Mark Isambard Brunel's foot tunnel to Island Gardens. Contact the Chairman for further details.



ONCE AGAIN our thanks to Joan Hickman for auditing the accounts.

REMINDE your friends of our meetings - buy them a Society pen - now on sale at 75p with full details of the meetings printed on. Only 50 in stock. Hurry.

MORE THANKS, this time to Hunt & Co., Accountants, who have kindly produced and distributed the 'Newsletter' over the last year.

SMALL BOAT NEEDED. Is there just one small boat in Southampton Canal Society - that we could sponsor to take part in the River Arun Cruise? Sunday 23rd June. Launching from 9.30am - cruise to start 10.30am from Waters Edge pub, Station Road, Pulborough.

AND YET MORE THANKS to Joyce Mayhew who makes tea most often and to Jackie Coles who helps, and ends up with the wet tea towels.



SPORT A Southampton Canal Society T-shirt. Navy or Red with white badge. On sale now at £4-50.
Navy sweatshirts with white badge on sale now at £8-50.



SALISBURY GROUP of the Inland Waterways Association.

Next meeting Thursday 20th June at 'The Swan', Stoford, at 7.30pm. Speaker - Commander Nick Wright, General Secretary of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.

Week-end meet. Saturday 29th June at the 'Three Tuns', Great Bedwyn and then proceed to see Crofton Pumps in Steam.

AGM - Thursday 19th September.

WANTAGE BIG DIG. 12th/13th October. At Wantage, on the Wilts and Berks Canal. Time for a big push. The K & A and Basingstoke have had their turns - now for the Wilts and Berks. 1000 navvys needed. Can you take part? Details from the Chairman.

PONDS FOR WILDLIFE - training day. Learn about pond wildlife, construction and care at Hawthorns Centre, Southampton Common. 20th July - 10.15am to 4.30pm. Cost £5.00. Book by 14th June to:-

CEP, Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester. SO22 6AT.

BOAT STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION. In a letter to boaters relating to safety matters British Waterways announced that it is deferring the date at which the Boat Standards Scheme will be a condition of licensing for private pleasure boats.

The text of the letter reads,

"Following our announcement in November 1990 that minimum safety levels should be applied to private pleasure boats (the Boat Standards Scheme) user groups and individuals have advised us that implementation from August this year is causing concern. The principle of the Boat Standards is accepted by the main user groups, including the Inland Waterways Association, Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs, Association of Pleasure Craft Operators, Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council and the British Marine Industries Federation. However, we have been asked to consider delaying the implementation of the Boat Standards for boats already holding valid licences until January 1993."

FIBRE OPTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

British Waterways, Sprint¹ and GPT² announce today that they are entering the next phase of market assessment for a 21st Century Fibre Optic transmission network using the superior wayleaves³ of British Waterways' 2,000 miles of inland waterways and towing paths.

Over the last eighteen months British Waterways has been investigating the telecommunications potential of their wayleaves. Discussions with potential customers and major international players in the field have met with positive encouragement. This was heightened by the publication last month of the Government's White Paper, "Competition and Choice: Telecommunication Policy for the 1990s"

The installation of fibre optic cables in canals or under towpaths would obviate many problems of negotiating individual wayleaves with numerous landowners which might considerably delay and inflate the cost of installation of a new telecommunications network.

These wayleaves are particularly attractive in the inner cities where canals provide a direct route to commercial centres without the major disruption required to install cables under roads and through densely built up areas. It is not yet clear what level of disruption to boating and other waterway users might be caused by the installation of these cables, although they are only a maximum of 1 inch in diameter and therefore large scale excavation is not required.

Neither British Waterways, their two partners or canal enthusiasts are able to say what the ultimate effect on the canal system will be. It seems possible that one result may be an extensive system of greatly improved towpaths after trenching work is complete.

British Waterways have been at pains to point out to users that installation of the cable in towpaths or the canal itself will not prevent future maintenance for navigation purposes.

It does seem clear, however, that the considerable income to be gained from a joint venture with the telecommunications companies could be used to reduce BW's dependence on government grants and provide additional income for improved maintenance of the waterway system.

NOTES:- 1) Sprint International UK Ltd is part of US Sprint which is owned by United Telecom, an independent telephone company based in Midwest America.

2) GPT is a subsidiary of GEC and Siemens and is a major manufacturer of telecommunications equipment.

3) Wayleave - payment for permission to traverse another persons land.