



Newsletter

June 1999

Issue 332

AT A COMPUTER NEAR YOU

Most of the larger waterway organisations now have a web site of their own as interest in the Internet from the general public continues to grow.

The Southampton Canal Society has joined in the latest form of publication in order to spread word about the waterways and the Society in particular. The site has been put together over the last few months by the editor of this Newsletter and has been available since the second week of May. Already, several dozen people have accessed the site from ? Well, it's possible that it could be from anywhere in the world, but more likely it's canal enthusiasts from this country.

Information has been organised under a number of headings:

About the Society

Society Meetings - events organised by SCS

Newsletter - snippets from the latest Newsletter

Sales - details of items from the Sales Stand

Local Waterways - with details on the Itchen Navigation, Andover Canal and the Titchfield Canal. This part of the site is currently being developed further with more information on the Itchen and eventually on the Southampton and Salisbury Canal.

Waterway Events 1999 - the diary that appears in this Newsletter.

Waterway Links - details of Internet access to both national and local waterway societies

So those members who have access to the Internet, have a look at our site for yourself. The site can be reached at:

www.sturrock-oates.demon.co.uk/scs/scs.htm

If you have any comments or ideas for improvement then feel free to contact me, Peter Oates, either by email (peter@sturrock-oates.demon.co.uk) or by more conventional means (address and phone number on page 2).

Water Abstraction

In a new document entitled **Taking Water Responsibly**, the Government has announced its decision following the consultation on changes to the water abstraction licensing system in England. The Government intends to go ahead with most of the proposals in the Review as soon as there is Parliamentary time to bring in legislation. This includes the plan to issue future licences on a time-limited basis and to bring nearly all water abstractions and transfers under some form of control.

The Government will proceed with the introduction of consents for the abstraction of water for canals, which IWA opposed in the consultation. The document stresses that this will only cover surface water systems that are controllable and that there is no intention to bring transfers of water within the canal network into the new authorisation system.

Other points of interest include:

- The Government was unable to come to a conclusion about economic instruments and will consult again later this year after it has carried out further research.
- Abstraction permits will be required for dewatering

work.

- An Abstraction Management Plan (AMP) will be developed for each catchment area, complementing the LEAP, which will describe the water resources position in each catchment and set out a strategy to deal with pressures on resources.
- There will be no protection against derogation for organisations (e.g. navigation authorities) holding abstraction consents: it will be open for them to apply for a full licence (with the attendant abstraction charges) if derogation is perceived to be a significant risk. The IWA's response to the Review pointed out the need to protect such organisations against the financial power of other powerful bodies such as the water companies, but it will not become clear whether the Government accepts this argument until it consults on the economic instruments aspects.
- There will be a requirement on water companies to consult on and agree a publicly available drought plan.

Copies of Taking Water Responsibly can be obtained from DETR Free Literature, 0870 122 6236. The sections of most interest to navigation interests are 3.10 to 3.15.

IWA Head Office Bulletin - May 1999

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

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:

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MEETINGS

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

- 3rd June** AGM followed by Waterway Videos
- 1st July** Talk by Neil Kearns of the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society
- 11th July** Walk along Romsey Canal and visit to Romsey Signal Box. (See article on the right)
- 5th August** Ray Brooks will be Demonstrating Canal Crafts
- 2nd Sept** The Chesterfield Canal with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates
- 7th Oct** A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association
- 22nd Nov** Annual Canal Quiz organised by last year's winners, IWA Guildford & Reading Branch at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking

May Meeting

The audience of nearly 70 people were treated to a fine performance by our guests Day-Star Theatre. This was the third visit made by the company to Southampton; the first was in July 1997 to help us celebrate the Society's 30th birthday.

According to those who have seen many of Day-Star's productions, the new play presented this year, *The Water Flows On*, was one of the best (and it was only the second public performance). The two actors, Jane and Duffy Marshall, kept the audience intent on the action and highly amused if the amount of laughter was anything to go by. I won't attempt to relate the plot here - for those who weren't at the play, it would spoil your enjoyment when you do go to see it and, of course, those who were there already know the storyline. Thank you Jane and Duffy. I am certainly looking forward to see you in action again.

The play was followed by light refreshments. This was fully up to the standard that members have come to expect and those present showed their appreciation by polishing up nearly every crumb. A very big thank you to all those who were involved in the preparation.

SOCIETY WALK

Those observant members who read their Newsletters, may remember the announcement last month that several informal walks along local waterways are to be organised this summer.

The first of these will be held on Sunday 11th July and will take in the stretch of the Andover Canal (usually known as the Romsey Canal) which runs for about 1½ miles on the north side of Romsey.

We will start the morning by having a look over the preserved Romsey Signal Box which was rescued by enthusiasts when it became redundant a number of years ago. It has been fully restored to working condition on a site only a few yards from its original position and also next to the canal.

Once we've finished there, walk north along the former towpath towards Timsbury. Near the north end of this stretch of canal, lies the Duke's Head public house. By the time we get there, it should be open for those who would like a drink and / or a snack. There is no compulsion, however, on walkers to take part if they'd rather eat a picnic on the banks of the canal (assuming that the weather's good - which of course it will be because we've arranged it). Walkers will then be free to make their way back to the start point in their own time.

We will be meeting outside the Plaza Theatre in Winchester Road, Romsey (NG Reference SU358213) at 10.30am. Car parking is available nearby - try the road next to Rayco Ford Garage by the railway bridge nearest the Plaza. Hope to see lots of you there!!

British Waterways - The launch of the consultation on BW's proposals for a 'membership' scheme is now to take place on June 17th, rather than May 5th as previously announced. The national launch, by Waterways Minister Alan Meale MP, will take place at Regents Zoo and will be followed up by regional presentations during late June and early July.

Victor Waddington, one of the best known commercial canal carriers in the North East, died in April, at the age of 90. His funeral was on 27th April at his home town of Wath-on-Dearne. Victor was a keen advocate of the carriage of freight by water and known locally as "King of the Canals", but was foremost a businessman.

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

WATERWAYS DIARY 1999

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton during 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.

Sun 06/06/99 *Wey & Arun Canal Trust* - Puddle '99 - the Trust's 27th Annual Sponsored Walk - 14 miles starting from Billingshurst. Includes free ploughman's lunch! Contact: 01403 752403.

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.

Sun 20/06/99 *Mytchett Westel Canoe Club* - Westel Canoe Tourist Trial, Basingstoke Canal. 6, 12, 20 or 30 miles. Any canoes & kayaks. Camp site available. Contact Jeff Simmons on 01784-255085

Sun 20/06/99 10.00am *Somersetshire Coal Canal Society* - Guided walk - Combe Hay Locks. Meet at The Wheatsheaf, Combe Hay. Contact Mike Chapman on 01225 426948 or Roger Halse on 01249 652846.

Sat - Sun 26/06/99 - 27/06/99 *Kennet & Avon Canal Trust* Reading Water Fest, Reading. Contact Gina Snowden on 0118 966 1668

Sat - Sun 26/06/99 - 27/06/99 *British Waterways / AngloWelsh Leisure* - Bristol on Water Festival. Contact Bristol on Water 0117 9276614

Thu 01/07/99 7.45pm *Southampton Canal Society* - Talk by Neil Kearns of the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society.

Sun 11/07/99 10.30am *Southampton Canal Society* - Walk along the Romsey Canal. Includes visit to the preserved Romsey Signal Box. Meet outside Plaza Theatre, Winchester Road, Romsey. Contact Brian Evans on 01794 517115

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 18/07/99 7.30pm *Mikron Theatre / Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society* - Show about water transport. Venue: Fox & Hounds, Crookham Road, Fleet.

Thu 29/07/99 9.30am *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Guided Walk along Deepcut Flight with ranger Peter Munt. £1 per person. Meet Deepcut Bridge. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

Thu 05/08/99 *Southampton Canal Society* Ray Brooks will be

Demonstrating Canal Crafts.

Sat - Sun 21/08/99 - 22/08/99 *Somerset Navigators Boat Club* - Taunton Water Festival. Contact John Tucker on 01823 490443.

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. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Fri - Mon 27/08/99 - 30/08/99 *IWA National Waterways Festival & Inland Boat Show, Worcester.* Contact Edwina Wallace on 01530 270714

Thu 02/09/99 7.45pm. *Southampton Canal Society.* The Chesterfield Canal with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates.

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.

Thu 07/10/99 *Southampton Canal Society* A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association.

Mon 22/11/99 *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* Annual Inter-Society Canal Quiz organised by last year's winners at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details / volunteers Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

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 Chichester Canal. Information from John Cooper on 01243 671051.

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.