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NEWSLETTER No. 241 MARCH 1991

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 7th March - Lister/Petter Marine. History of Marine Diesels for waterway use. Present day use, hints and tips.
4th April - 'Bristol or Bust' by Jon Sims. Illustrated account of a recent hire boat trip from Trowbridge to Bristol and return.
16th - 19th May - Exhibition Stand at Community Festival '91, Chandlers Ford.

FEBRUARY MEETING. Despite snow on the day, our speaker, John Cooper travelled from Chichester to give those present a most interesting evening on the 'Chichester Canal'.

Using an overhead projector to display copies of old maps and photographs he first gave us a talk on the history of the canal - then with colour slides brought us up to date including the restoration so far. The Chichester Canal Society lease the canal and let fishing and canoeing rights etc.

Members were encouraged to go and walk the 4 miles from Chichester Basin to the sea. To those members who did not make it to the February meeting, a visit to the canal on our doorstep is highly recommended.

IWA SOLENT & ARUN BRANCH. Following the death of Gerry Skinner the new Chairman is Mike Laishley. His address is 14 Albert Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3DD. Secretary is Dr Jamie Davies, 242 Foundry Lane, Shirley, Southampton. Forthcoming events:- 22nd March - AGM, Fernleigh Centre, North Street, Chichester.
23rd June - River Arun cruise.

RIVER ARUN GUIDE written by Gerry Skinner is now available from Mike Laishley, price £2-00 plus 37p p&p.

LANCASTER CANAL. The Lancaster Canal Trust has been promoting the provision of an amenity area at both ends of Hincaster Tunnel on the un-navigable Northern Reaches of the Lancaster Canal. A team of volunteers has been clearing undergrowth and cutting tree saplings which have spread into the dry canal bed at both ends of the tunnel. The towpaths at the approaches to the canal are to be improved and resurfaced and the horse path over the tunnel top will be restored for walkers.

It is also intended that volunteers from Waterway Recovery Group will work at the site to repair the canal bed where it has been damaged by the undergrowth.

Also planned is a viewing platform which will be constructed near the tunnel entrance to allow a view into the tunnel in safety.

QUIZ QUESTIONS. Recently on television a gentleman had to answer the following questions on British Canals. He had to get six out of seven correct in order to win £6,400. How would you have done?

The answers are the names of the junctions where the canals meet.

1. Coventry Canal and the Northern Oxford.
2. Staffs & Worcs Canal and the Shropshire Union Canal.
3. Leeds & Liverpool Canal and the Rufford Branch.
4. Ashton Canal and the Peak Forest Canal.
5. Rochdale Canal and the Bridgewater Canal.
6. Grand Union Canal (Main Line) and the Leicester Section.
7. Trent & Mersey Canal and the Coventry Canal

ANSWERS OVERLEAF.



Narrowboats
at Cassio Bridge

SEE 1994

'NARROWBOATS AT CASSIO BRIDGE'. Another of the designs on cards available from Dave Townley-Jones at the Society sales stand. Only 75p for a pack of 6 cards, 3 different pictures.

IWA/WRG CHARITY BANK. In the November 1990 newsletter we asked for stamps, tokens etc. for the Charity Bank. Our thanks go to those members who have brought in some for us. During 1990 over £1,750 was raised.

Southampton Canal Society members please note:- At each meeting our collection box is on the tea bar. Collecting together saves postage.

We have heard that the Shell points promotion is going to end. After the 10th March Shell points will not be issued and after 31st May they cannot be redeemed. If you have any Shell points tokens you do not intend to use please bring them to a Canal Society meeting and we will send them to WRG to be put to good use for waterway recovery.

BOTO-X. British Waterways will remain major sponsors of the annual BOTO-X charity inflatable boat race on the Kennet and Avon Canal although the event will no longer be run under the auspices of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.

Over six years, BOTO-X has raised £61,000 to assist the funding of the restoration works on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Following the completion of the first phase of restoration and the reopening of the canal in 1990, the BOTO-X Committee, with the full support of the Canal Trust, will be organising the 1991 race independently. Funds raised will be donated to a number of local charities and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust will receive a donation for the continued work of improving the canal.

British Waterways and Wadworths & Company have been the main sponsors throughout and both organisations will continue their full support.

BOTO-X will be held over the weekend of 22/23 June at Caen Hill Locks, Devizes. It is hoped that around £20,000 will be raised for charity.

SOMERSET COAL CANAL SOCIETY is beginning to form up. An initial meeting, including a walk along part of the canal and a dinner is planned for early this year. Anyone who is interested should contact the Membership Secretary, Tim George, 237 The Vale, Golders Green, London NW11 8TN.

WEY AND ARUN CANAL. Tons of old fridges, iron bedsteads and other discarded items were pulled out of the old Wey and Arun Canal between Loxwood and Alfold on 21st October.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ QUESTIONS.

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| 1. Hawkesbury | 2. Atherley | 3. Burscough | 4. Dukinfield | 5. Castlefield | 6. Norton | 7. Fradley |
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