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NEWSLETTER No. 232 MAY 1990

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 3rd May - Talk by Mike O'Brien, HM Coastguard plus 16mm film.
- 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

APRIL MEETING The Kennet and Avon Canal is always a popular subject with SCS members but all the more so when it is presented with superb slides and high quality, dual fade projectors as was the case at our April meeting.

Martin Brown, Recreation Officer for the East end of the Kennet and Avon conveyed us from Bath to Reading in leisurely fashion, emphasising the rural nature of the canal and bringing us right up to date on the final stages of restoration.

The slide show ran for 50 minutes and contained a number of aerial photographs. After the tea break Martin answered members questions regarding the canal and its use after completion. As an ecologist he was particularly keen to point out the natural features to be observed along the course of the waterway.

THE QUEEN will officially reopen the Kennet and Avon Canal on August 8th. The ceremony will take place at the top of the Caen Hill flight of locks at Devizes.

ROMSEY SOCIETY welcome all to join them on a guided canal walk. Meet at the Plaza Theatre, Romsey at 10.30am on Sunday, 6th May. Enquiries tel:- Romsey 516012.

NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM Still a few seats on the coach. Sunday May 13th leaving Southampton around 9.00am.

Cost including entrance to Museum:-

Adults £8-00 - DAP's & Children (3 to 16) £6.75 - Children under 3 £3.00

Contact the Chairman at the May meeting.

There is to be an extra display at the Museum on the day of our trip. Around 40 petrol and diesel engines will be operating on the site. Learn about the days before electricity came to every home and see the portable tools of the past. This display is being organised by the Mid-Gloucestershire Engine Preservation Society.

THE SEA PORT This is the title of the film from the Shell Film Library which will be shown after the AGM on June 7th. This film shows the development of the Sea Port from the earliest sea traders, probably the Phoenicians, through the use of London by the Romans and the building of the floating harbour in Bristol. When larger vessels were used Avonmouth was built away from Bristol, Liverpool had 34 docks built and Manchester was linked to the sea by canal. South Coast ports developed around the passenger ferry trade to France. Up to date there are the container ports of Southampton and Felixstowe and the Roll On - Roll Off terminal at Poole.

RESTORATION PRIORITIES The Inland Waterways Association has confirmed comments made recently that their Restoration Committee has produced a short list of restoration schemes. The schemes have been short listed not because of a near approach to completion nor for a total lack of any physical progress so far. The selection is based more on an assessment of which schemes would benefit most from IWA backing. The waterways involved are the Chesterfield Canal, Cromford Canal, Droitwich Barge Canal, Montgomery Canal, Neath Canal, Sleaford Navigation, Thames & Severn Canal, Wendover Arm, Wey & Arun Canal and the Wilts & Berks Canal.

LLANGOLLEN CANAL The work to install a concrete lining to the bed of the canal where it passes over unstable ground was completed a week earlier than expected allowing the canal to reopen on the 7th April in time for Easter.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1st APRIL 1990

	1990	1989
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	£286.50	£163.50
Sales	17.30	6.46
Auction	-	37.40
Refreshments	28.55	36.18
Draws	134.06	71.77
Library	3.50	7.00
Outings	375.00	281.30
Refund on Coach Trip	-	47.00
Sponsors - Canal Walk	8.00	-
Donations	12.00	16.00
	£864.91	£666.61
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Hire of Meeting Room	132.00	132.00
Lecture Fees & Costs	-	44.00
Donations/Subscriptions	133.00	175.50
Printing NEWSLETTER	70.68	77.15
Postage NEWSLETTER	31.59	31.07
Chairman & Secretary - Stationery, Postage & Phone	-	24.15
Treasurer - Stationery, Postage & Phone	5.65	-
Outings	331.80	390.00
Cash for Sponsor	9.00	-
Cost (part) Raffle prizes	6.39	-
Cost of Key cutting	4.43	-
Bank Charges	-	.25
	£724.54	£874.12
INCOME Surplus	140.37	-
Deficit	-	207.51
BALANCE - 88/89 b/f	395.22	
BALANCE - 1st APRIL 1990	535.59	
Interest from Deposit A/c	17.78	
BALANCE - 1st April 1990 c/f	£553.37	
Balance at Bank:- Current A/c	£238.79	
Deposit A/c	310.24	
Cash in Hand	4.34	

Correct as at 24th April 1990 - Joan Hickman

OUR THANKS once again to Colin and Joan Hickman who have kindly audited the Society's accounts and also to Bill Jones for keeping them in good order throughout the year.

BIRMINGHAM CANALS The 100 miles of canals in Birmingham are to be given a face-lift to attract more tourists, as one of British Waterway's priorities for the Midland Region in the 1990s. About 4000 boats cruise annually through the city's largely hidden canal system but this number could be increased without overcrowding the system.

Opening up the improved towpaths to the public is creating business opportunities that British Waterways is keen to develop. They want to put together a package encompassing such operations as boat trips, floating restaurants and other water related activities. British Waterways is prepared to consider going into partnership with private enterprise and offer their skills in such developments.

WIGAN PIER GAME The Wigan Pier landmark beside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal may be a musical joke, but A Game Of Wigan Pier is not. Claimed to be the best game to hit the market for years, it was presented at the Earls Court Toy Fair in January.

A Game Of Wigan Pier brings in boat-playing pieces. You can move around the waterways collecting cargos, experiencing the pitfalls encountered by boat people in Victorian times.