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**NEWSLETTER No. 287
MAY 1995**

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 4th May 1995**
The History of Waterways and Gloucester Docks
by Tony Conder,
Curator, National Waterways Museum, Gloucester.
- 1st June 1995**
30 years of fighting rust in the preservation of transport
by Ian Dean.
- 5th July 1995**
Annual General Meeting followed by canal videos.
- 3rd August 1995**
Members Slides (early warning - go out and take some)
- 7th December 1995**
Inter Club/Section Quiz (Since we won at Chichester last year we host the 1995 quiz)
- 1st February 1996**
Explore the Panama Canal and the River Douro
by Hugh McKnight.

APRIL MEETING. Due to a work commitment our arranged speaker, John Silman was unable to attend. However, he arranged for a replacement, Tony Yoward, who gave us an illustrated talk on 'New Forest Gunpowder Works'. Most members had not heard of the works before the talk, and not surprisingly since when such a works ceases to function, it is policy, for safety reasons, to demolish all buildings and totally erase all traces. The site is now very popular for picnics, and quite safe both for visitors and New Forest animals.

In the days of production though it was not always so. Our speaker told us of some quite terrible accidents despite all the precautions that were in place, including the type of clothing and particularly the footwear worn by the workers. This was a very informative and interesting meeting made all the more enjoyable by Tony Yoward's sense of humour and ready turn of wit.

CHAIRMAN'S BOAT TRIP. There are still some places available on the boat trip organised by our Chairman with Ordnance Survey Cine Club. THURSDAY 8th June. Leaving Southampton about 8.00am. Coach, for 24 people only, to Blisworth. £15.00 per person. Boat trip on 2 x 12 seat, self drive (steer) narrowboats with toilets and facilities to prepare hot drinks etc. Through Blisworth Tunnel, Stoke Bruerne and 2 or 3 locks south - depending on time available. Boats must be returned to Blisworth by 6.30pm. Back in Southampton about 9.00pm. Contact Brian Evans (Chairman) on 01794 517115.

COACH TRIP to the BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM, DUDLEY on Sunday, 4th June, 8.00am from the Ordnance Survey (secure car parking). £12.00 - Coach, entrance to the Museum and Boat Trip into Dudley Tunnel. Contact Jon Sims - 01703 732868.

TEA TOWELS. Please note that those surrounding the sales stand actually are for sale and not just there for decoration.

NOW ON ORDER. GEOprojects maps - Grand Union Nos 1,2,3 & 4 and The Thames, both the river and the path.

IWA 1995 BCN MARATHON CHALLENGE. This years cruise will take place over the weekend of 24/25 June. Full details from Helen Davey, 01962 734909. Below is a discussion from the 1994 cruise. (Taken from Waterways-Spring 95) *It's Sunday. It's Dudley. It's BW doing what they do best.*

- "You can't go through."
- "Why not?"
- "That's an unpowered craft."
- "It has an annual licence for a powered craft with use of locks".
- "It still counts as unpowered."
- "But we've got two engines. one petrol, one electric."
- "It's not safe."
- "They use these for inshore rescue because they're virtually unsinkable."
- "I can't let you go through."
- "We did speak to the Regional Manager during the week and he gave permission. Would you like to ring him to check?"
- A pause. It is, after all, only ten o'clock on Sunday morning. The pause lengthens.
- "Well you'll have to take this with you."
- 'This' is a three foot diameter life belt. We take the easy way out, armed with what reminds us of a token for the Toyland single-track railway, we creep into Dudley Tunnel under what Waterways World unkindly described as 'egg-whisk power'

Southampton Canal Society Library
Please return any books to Sue Lewis at meetings for the benefit of all members.

THANKS to those SCS members who not only bought tickets in our usual raffle at the April meeting, but also put their names on Peter Glover's sponsor form for the Arun Cruise, and then bought tickets for the Chichester Canal Society Raffle. We were able to send £15.00 to Chichester. P.S. Peter still has his sponsor form, should anyone else wish to add their name.

CANALS ALIVE! The spirit of the waterways! Canals Alive! celebrates the rich heritage of arts and traditions that have evolved around our canals over the past two centuries.

Why were narrowboats painted with Roses and Castles?

What made canal boat people a 'race apart'?

How did they build locks, tunnels and aqueducts with such primitive tools?

What is legging?

Where can you see canal inspired art today?

Throughout 1995 and 1996 there will be lots of opportunities to discover these and many more answers to enrich your enjoyment of the canals today.

Canals Alive! News - for people who'd like to know more about canals and how to make the most of them.

This colourful 8-page magazine is published 5 times a year. In a typical issue you'll find:-

details of forthcoming events

a special feature on a canal craft or tradition

'getting to know' a particular canal - towpath walks, wildlife and local history

canals for kids

story and picture from the past

a book, holiday or other offer exclusive to readers

How can you obtain all the above?

Simply take out a subscription for £8.50 per year and you will receive your copy by post, PLUS an exclusive Canals Alive! souvenir. Choose either an unbleached cotton T-shirt or handy lightweight day pack, both specially commissioned for Canals Alive!

Southampton Canal Society Sales

Embossed Ball Point Pens 50p

Fibre Tip Pens 75p

GEO projects Maps.

Basingstoke Canal £2.50

Oxford Canal £3.75

Kennet & Avon Canal £3.25

Notelets, with line drawings of canal scenes £1.00

Screen Printed Tee Shirts £6.50
in Navy - large & extra large
in Red - medium

Embroidered Sweat Shirts £15.00
in Navy - medium
in Bright Royal - medium

Colourful Tea Towels £2.50

Decorated Mugs £2.25

Decorated Trays £1.00 & £2.95

CANAL PLANNER.

In the modern age of computers it was inevitable that someone would come up with a software package for planning canal journeys.

Now you can plan your journey and obtain printouts of the relevant sections on your home based PC, to use with, or instead of, your faithful Nicholson's.

If, however, you are fully automated you could use the program on a Lap Top on your narrowboat, but no printouts there!



NEW BRITISH WATERWAYS MAP. A new map has just been published by British Waterways. Carl Legge, Marketing and Communications executive, organised its production after consulting widely within BW. The map also contains a gazetteer of towns, canals, junctions and BW offices. On the reverse is a photo collage of BW activities in poster form. Framed and encapsulated versions will also be available.

CANALS ALIVE! - Dates for your diary.

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| 24th April - 7th May | Exhibition of canal paintings by Alan Firth, The Stop House, Braunston. |
| 6th - 8th May | Saddleworth Canal Festival, Trail boats & rally. Huddersfield Canal. |
| 6th - 8th May | Canalway Cavalcade, Little Venice, London. |
| 8th May | Model Tugs - Towing Event, Demonstrations and competitions, Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. |
| 20th - 21st May | Open Day, Tooley's Boat Yard, Banbury, Oxford Canal. |
| 28th May - 4th June | Somerset Canals Week, Taunton - Bridgewater Canal. |
| 10th - 11th June | Boto-X, Caen Hill Flight, Devizes, K & A Canal. |

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