




Chairman : Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, 
: Romsey. Tel:- 0794 517115
Treasurer & : Les Osborn, The Gardener's Cottage,
Membership : Pinehurst Road, Bassett, Southampton.
: Tel:- 0703 768116
Secretary : Martin Cripps, 42 Delamere Road,
: Southsea. Tel:- 0705 753241

NEWSLETTER No. 249 NOVEMBER 1991

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 7th November - "AVONBAY" from Strasbourg to Berlin and Brussels by Hugh McKnight will include some very interesting material on the magnificent lakeland waterways of Eastern Germany. As on previous occasions members will have the opportunity to purchase a wide range of books on waterways and other related subjects.
- 5th December - American Supper and simple quiz by Peter Armitage of Manor Farm Country Park where members will be presented with a range of old farming and related implements and will have to guess their use. Followed by a brief talk by Peter on the actual use.
- 2nd January - Southampton to Salisbury Canal - illustrated talk by our Librarian - Mike Smetham.
- 6th February - Paint your Narrowboat by International Paints - P Bennett. This should include not only painting and decorating boats on the inland waterways but also general information on corrosion prevention, selection, preparation and application.
- 5th March - History of Wind and Water Mills - John Silman.
- 2nd April - 'My Latest Waterways Slides' - The Chairman.

OCTOBER MEETING. The talk and slides entitled 'The Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port' by Tony Hirst was not just about a museum. Tony showed us historic pictures of waterways in the North West and compared them with modern ones taken from the same spots.

We heard how the museum site developed over the years to the enterprise it is today and how some of the exhibits were acquired and moved in. There is a reference library where serious waterways students can research facts and the museum site is the point where many thousands of school children have been introduced to waterways for the first time.

Tony's enthusiasm for the Museum was obvious throughout his talk and if some of this brushes off onto some of the visiting school children then we should thank him and his staff for providing the waterways with new young supporters.

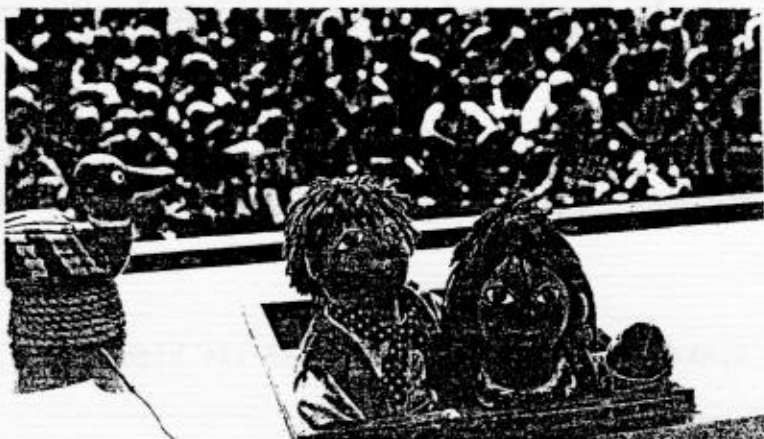
ROSIE & JIM'S appearance at the National Waterways Festival at Windmill End caused the nearest that British Waterways has ever seen to Beagle Mania.

Who are Rosie & Jim you might be asking, (especially if you don't have young children)?

They are two ragdoll puppets who appear on a childrens television series with their creator, John Cunliffe.

They all live on a narrowboat called 'Ragdoll' and the series is based on the inland waterways.

British Waterways is using this programme as an effective vehicle to pass on the 'Be Water Wise' message to children. BW has a 15 second trailer after every second episode showing its logo and advertising a childrens canal and water safety play pack.



NAVVIES No.128 to celebrate 25 years of publication has recently been printed with colour cover pictures for the first time and some very good glossy black and white ones inside.

All were taken at digs which marked milestones along the route of volunteer waterways restoration - Welshpool 1969, Dudley Dig 1970, ASHTAC 1972 and Droitwich Dig 1973.

A copy of 'Navvies Notebook' No.1 made up the centre pages, and how it has changed. The 'Notebook' bit was dropped between No.25 (July 1970) and No.26 (September 1970).

Through 'Navvies', the Waterway Recovery Group has been able to build and organise a large work force which over the years has become efficient and capable of tackling most restoration projects.

The diary, October 5th - December, in No.128 lists at least 15 sites where work will be taking place - and there are more.

The latest 'big dig' was Wantage '91, held on 12th - 13th October. WRG were fairly confident that 1000 navvies would be there to reclaim two miles of derelict canal in one weekend.

Were any of our members among the 1000? If so - would they write down their observations for the 'Newsletter'.

Through rocketing inflation the subscription to 'Navvies' has been held low so that it is available to all, especially the young without income. Minimum subscription is still only 95p (but of course a loss is being made at that price) for 4 to 6 copies per year.

If you think that you are missing out - then write to:-
Sue Watts, 14 Eleanor Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 1FZ

DONATIONS in November - £100.00 to the 'Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port'.
£10.00 to the Wooden Canal Craft Trust.

IWA Christmas Cards and Gifts list - please ask the Chairman.

HORSE BRASSES featuring Steam Narrowboat 'President' are on sale at our Society sales stand - £2.50 each.

BUY A RAFFLE TICKET from Martin Cripps. £1.00 each, to help restore a butty for 'President'.

CHRISTMAS BOATING. Thinking of hiring a narrowboat over the Christmas or New Year period?

In the November '91 issue of Waterways World there is a list of companies who have boats available for hire during these periods and also a Hotel Boat company who are running cruises.

LONG DISTANCE TOWPATHS. The 140 mile London to Birmingham towpath walk following the Grand Union Canal is not just a pipe dream. The four county councils have given grants to fund research into the project.

The route starts at Paddington and should finish under Spaghetti Junction in Birmingham but it is planned to extend the walk along part of the BCN to Gas Street Basin. This is a more pleasant terminus and it has the advantage of being near a main line station, as is the start and numerous intermediate points.

IRISH CANALS Work has started on the restoration of the Ballinamore & Ballyconnel Canal which joins the River Shannon to Upper Lough Erne.

It is planned to have an eight mile stretch of waterway open to navigation at each end of the Canal by the summer of 1992 and restoration of the complete 36 miles of canal open by 1993.