

Newsletter

November 1999

Issue 336

WATERWAYS QUIZ

Monday 22nd November sees the annual inter-society waterways quiz. In December last, the IWA Guildford and Reading Branch won the quiz that had been held for the last few years at St John Ambulance Hall, Southampton. As winners, they are responsible for organising this year's quiz. They have decided to hold this at their usual meeting place of Byfleet Boat Club, The Boat House, 4 Old Parvis Road, Byfleet, Woking, Surrey. We have accepted the invitation to take part so that the trophy can make its way back "down south" where it belongs.

We now have a team to answer the questions, but it would be very good to have Society supporters present to cheer the side along. It is proposed that a number of cars will be organised so that the team and, hopefully, lots of supporters can share transport costs. If you want to cheer the Society team to victory or just have an enjoyable evening then let me know. I'm willing to act as a clearing house for transport. So if you have spare seats in your car or if you want a lift, please contact me - the sooner the better. I trust that many of you (and that includes YOU) will decide to come and give us your support.

Below is a map of the area around Byfleet showing motorways, A-roads and B-roads. The inset shows,

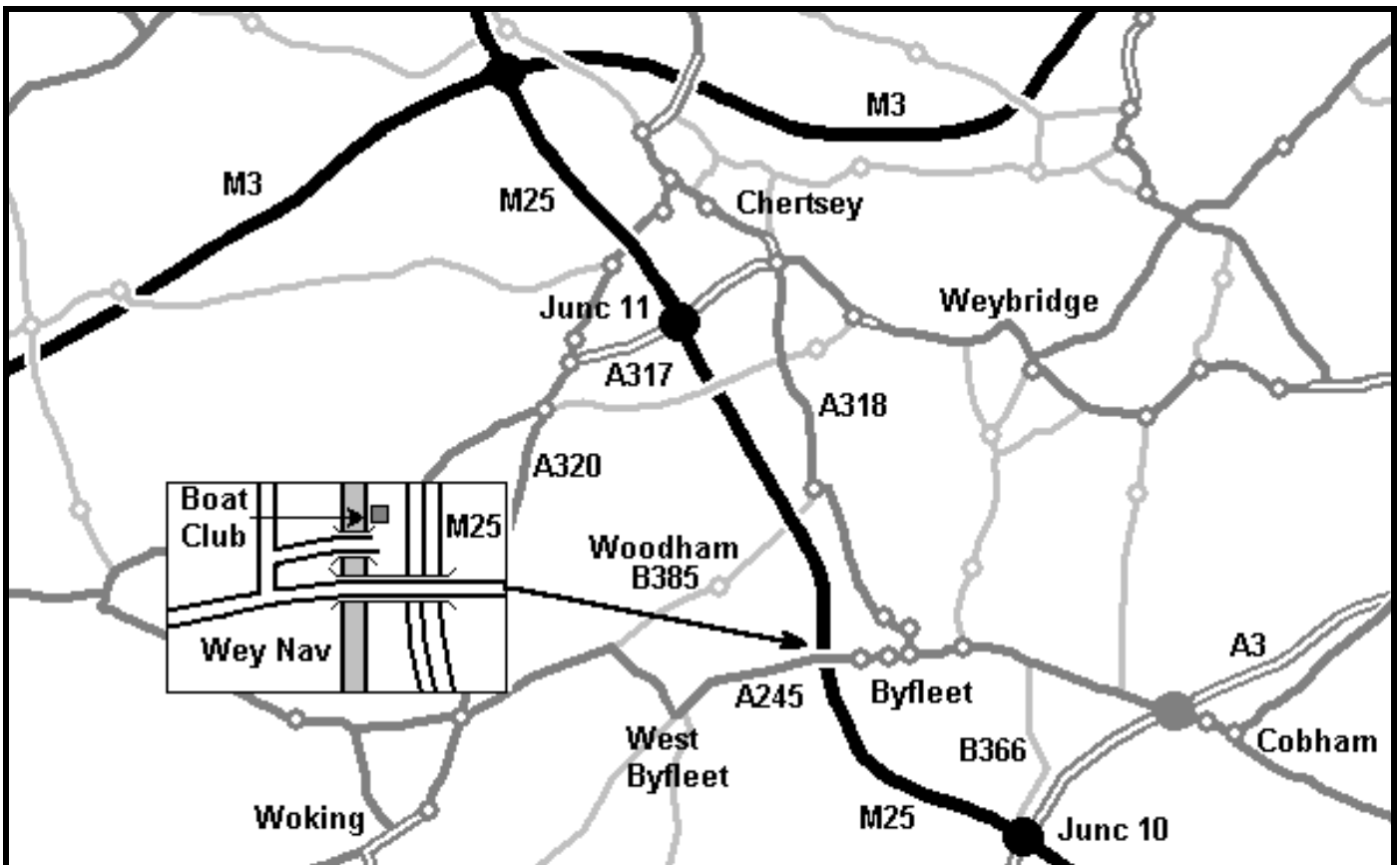
diagrammatically, the area by the boat-house.

If coming from the Southampton area, the easiest approach is via the M3. At the junction with the M25 turn south towards Chertsey and Leatherhead (Heathrow is the WRONG way). Turn off the M25 at junction 11, going left along the A317 dual carriageway towards Chertsey. At the next roundabout turn right onto the A318 to Byfleet. At the roundabout where the B385 (to Woodham and Woking) turns off, follow the A318 left then right across the tail of New Haw lock. After about a mile, at the third roundabout according to the map, turn right onto the A245 towards West Byfleet and Woking.

In about half a mile, just after crossing both the M25 and the Wey Navigation on a single, modern bridge, turn right and immediately right again into Old Parvis Road. This will take you back over the Navigation via the Old Parvis Bridge where you should find the Boat Club on your left.

If approaching via the A3 from Guildford, I would recommend turning off at the interchange **after** the M25. Turn left onto A245 towards Byfleet and Woking. After nearly 2½ miles you should reach the bridge over the M25 referred to in the previous paragraph.

Peter Oates



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:

Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8FN. Tel: 01794 517115

Secretary:

Vacant

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Committee:

Tony Coles	Peter Oates
Martin Cripps	David Townley-Jones
Paul Herbert	

Newsletter Editor:

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel: 01794 517614

MEETINGS

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

October Meeting

At the October meeting, Trevor Thornton of the Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association enlightened us as to how, under modern transport conditions, there are still a number of hardy souls who are willing to continue carrying goods on inland waterways using narrow boats. There remain a variety of cargoes which on some occasions can economically and often conveniently be carried.

The CNOA was formed to further trade on the water and inform members where work was to be had. It has grown to 36 trading members and 120 associates, who are all kept informed through a quarterly newsletter. Associate membership costs £10.00.

The active members publicise the services of their carrying members, keep a register of working boats and crews available for hire, and attend meetings with British Waterways, etc to discuss stoppages, obstacles on the waterways, building developments that could mean loss of working wharves.

Many carriers survive by buying and selling coal and fuel oil at various places close to the waterways, so not only carrying their cargoes but also trading in them.

The working narrow boat is as much a part of the waterways as are the preserved buildings, locks, bridges, etc. So let us hope that carrying will continue into the future and at locks we should all be willing to give them priority since to them time really means money.

Brian Evans

National Trailboat Festival 2000

Arrangements are being made for the year 2000 National Trailboat Festival to be held at Newport, Gwent on an unconnected section of the Monmouthshire Canal, owned by Newport County Borough Council. The site is adjacent to the M4 at Junction 26.

The Festival is being organised by the Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust (MBACT) with assistance from IWA South Wales Branch.

Newport was one of two sites investigated, the other being at Cwmcarn on the derelict Crumlin arm of the Monmouthshire Canal approx 7 miles distant. Unfortunately, the Cwmcarn site does not have a suitable space available for the festival activities. The good news at Cwmcarn is that the owner, Caerphilly County Borough Council have promised that a slipway will be constructed at their navigable stretch of canal. This will enable trail boaters access to that section for the first time for over half a century and an opportunity to explore the cruising potential on the Crumlin arm of the Monmouthshire Canal as well as the one and a half miles, including one lock, at Newport.

Car drivers also have the seven miles of the adjacent Forest Drive Country Park to explore.

For more information of the 26-28 May 2000 Trailboat Festival, contact Phil Hughes on 01495 762823 or Don Thomas on 01633 48340.

IWA Sou'Wester magazine, Autumn 1999

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS**4th November 1999**

The Chesterfield Canal by Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock (postponed from September).

22nd November 1999

Annual Waterways Quiz organised by last year's winners, IWA Guildford & Reading Branch at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking (see front page).

2nd December 1999

"Here, there, but not quite everywhere" with Brian Evans followed by American Supper.

6th January 2000

The BCN Marathon Challenge with Chris and Helen Davey.

3rd February 2000

Jubilee Sailing Trust by Pam Taylor.

2nd March 2000

Canals of South West England by Bob Dukes.

6th April 2000

Members' Slides.

4th May 2000

The Anderton Boat Lift by Richard Drake (National Chairman IWA & Chairman of Anderton Boat Lift Trust).

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BW Membership Scheme

In his speech at the IWA's AGM on 25 September, National Chairman, Richard Drake, referred to the range of activities undertaken by the Association, but drew particular attention to the fact that IWA's campaigns for better funding for the waterways and a more secure future for British Waterways had both borne fruit in the Waterway Minister's February announcement.

Richard Drake also referred to BW's consultation on a possible membership scheme and an allied charitable trust, and offered some advice to members in responding to BW. He recommended that members should send in a response to BW's questionnaire, to at least demonstrate interest in, and support for, the inland waterways to the Government

If members were unsure of how to respond and were looking to him for advice, then he suggested that they:

- Indicate a broad approval of BW's plans (i.e.: to provide ways for more people to get involved, provide richer opportunities for people to enjoy the waterways, promote conservation and restoration, and raise new funds, etc.). "All these things we ourselves are trying to do, so we can hardly object to someone helping us."
- Indicate support for the charitable trust, subject to being satisfied with the control and organisation.
- Indicate that we do not support the membership scheme unless it can be shown that it will not compete for members with existing waterway groups, such as IWA, and many of IWA's corporate members.

Richard Drake added "The questionnaires do not provide for this level of comment, so I am afraid it might be necessary to append a note of reservation to the form. BW have said that they do not mind this; in fact they have indicated that they will welcome letters from people on the subject of the consultation".

Richard concluded "Remember, no British Waterways scheme will replace the IWA. No matter how benevolent BW might become, there must still be an independent watchdog representing the interests of the millions of users. For over 50 years we have been saying there should be more money for the waterways. We can say things that the navigation authorities would never dare, because the Government is their paymaster."

IWA Bulletin October 1999

Changes to Society Web-site

Don't forget to look at the Society web-site on the Internet. It is still attracting several visits every day. I am currently providing a new face to the site and when this is complete, sometime during the month of November, it will be moved to a new location:

www.users.waitrose.com/~whitenap/scs

The old address is still valid and, when made, the move will be announced at:

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

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	£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
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal <i>with the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal</i>	£3.75
The Thames Map	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal and River Trent - Map 2 Great Haywood	
Junction to Cromwell Lock	£3.75

Ball Point Pens – Embossed 50p

Burgees – Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo on each side£8.00

Decorated Mugs

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

with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

Sweat Shirts – Standard in Navy or Royal Blue

with Society logo embroidered on breast

Tea Towels – Various colourful designs

£2.50 & £3.25

Tee Shirts – Screen printed with Society logo across chest

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 - or ring Paul on 01703 262365

WATERWAYS DIARY 1999/2000

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

Thu 04/11/99 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* "The Chesterfield Canal" by Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock (postponed from September) Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 09/11/99 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "The River Stort" with Richard Thomas. Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Tue 16/11/99 - 7.45pm - *IWA West Country Branch* "Kennet & Avon Canal" presented by Terry Kemp. Broadstone Library, Poole. Details from Bob Dukes on 01202 694830.

Mon 22/11/99 - 8.00pm - *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.

Sat 27/11/99 - 2.30pm - *IWA West Country Branch and Bournemouth Natural Science Society* "Canals of South West England" by Bob Dukes. At BNSS, 39 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Details from Bob Dukes on 01202 694830 or John Conde on 01202 696173. (Note: Bob will be giving this talk to SCS on 2nd March 2000.)

Thu 02/12/99 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* Waterway Miscellany with Brian Evans followed by American Supper. Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 14/12/99 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "The West Byfleet Independent Canal Society" with 'Pablo' Haworth. In the early days of restoration, Pablo's group was the only one working east of Woking. Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Tue 21/12/99 - 7.45pm - *IWA West Country Branch* Details of this meeting not currently to hand. Details from Bob Dukes on 01202 694830.

Thu 06/01/00 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* The BCN Marathon Challenge with Chris and Helen Davey. Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 11/01/00 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "More travels around the World" with Robin Higgs. Railway journeys to far off lands Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Tue 18/01/00 - 7.45pm - *IWA West Country Branch* Details of this meeting not currently to hand. Details from Bob Dukes on 01202 694830.

Mon 24/01/00 - 8.00pm - *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* "British Bats and their Conservation" by Ross Baker (Chairman Surrey Bat Group) at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details from Paul Miles on 01932 401505.

Thu 03/02/00 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* Jubilee Sailing Trust by Pam Taylor. Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 08/02/00 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "The London Canal Museum" with David Moore (Chairman Friends of London Canal Museum). Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Tue 15/02/00 - 7.45pm - *IWA West Country Branch* Details of this meeting not currently to hand. Details from Bob Dukes on 01202 694830.

Mon 21/02/00 - 8.00pm - *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* "River Wey Matters" with John Gibson (National Trust Navigations Manager) at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details from Paul Miles on 01932 401505.

Thu 02/03/00 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* "Canals of South West England" by Bob Dukes (IWA West Country Branch). Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 14/03/00 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "Birmingham and the Black Country" with Ron Cousens. Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Mon 20/03/00 - 8.00pm - *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* "Branch AGM and Surfing the System (at a snail's pace)" a video with Norman Woolley at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details from Paul Miles on 01932 401505.

Tue 21/03/00 - 7.45pm - *IWA West Country Branch* Details of this meeting not currently to hand. Details from Bob Dukes on 01202 694830.

Thu 06/04/00 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* Members' Slides. Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 11/04/00 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "An evening of Audio-Visual films on 'other' canals and things" with Arthur Dungate. Films on Wilts & Berks and Wey & Arun Canals and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Mon 17/04/00 - 8.00pm - *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* "Woking's Waterways Heritage" Opening event of Woking Waterways Week. At Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details from Paul Miles on 01932 401505.

Thu 04/05/00 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* "The Anderton Boat Lift" by Richard Drake (National Chairman IWA & Chairman of Anderton Boat Lift Trust). Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Fri - Sun 26 - 28/05/00 - *Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust and IWA South Wales Branch* - National Trailboat Festival, Newport, Gwent. Details from Phil Hughes on 01495 762823 or Don Thomas on 01633 48340

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.