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**NEWSLETTER No. 281
OCTOBER 1994**

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 6th October 1994**
The Publication of Canal & Riverboat Magazine by Norman Alborough.
- 3rd November 1994**
Our Waterways Heritage by Mrs Frances Hart, Chief Executive, IWA.
- 1st December 1994**
American Supper & 'A Christmas Toast' the production of Champagne.
- 5th January 1995**
The Kennet & Avon Canal and its Appeal by Terry Kemp.
- 2nd February 1995**
The Grand Union Canal 1793-1993 & Today's Engineering by Chris Mitchell.
- 2nd March 1995**
Early Inland Navigation in Hampshire by Peter Boyce.
- 6th April 1995**
History of Postcards featuring Hampshire & Canals by John Silman.
- 4th May 1995**
The History of Waterways and Gloucester Docks by Tony Conder, Curator, National Waterways Museum, Gloucester.

SEPTEMBER MEETING. Members were treated to a variety of slides, both old and new. Our speaker, Dr Roger Calvert of the Steamboat Association, outlined the work of the Association in representing steam boat owners and helping with advice on building projects etc., for most models are restorations or DIY installations.

At times he told amusing stories of small steam boat control, for this is more difficult than most of us imagined. There may be enough steam to navigate into a lock, but having waited for the lock to fill or empty, will there be enough steam left to get out of it. Obviously the power units need constant attention, but what a delightful addition these small and unusual boats make to the inland Waterways scene.

Dr Calvert concluded with an entertaining video of a colourful gathering of over 80 boats on the River Thames to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Association.

THE SOCIETY LIBRARY is now working smoothly under new SUEpervision. Please return books promptly to Sue. Have you borrowed the video of the narrowboat crossing the Channel yet? Well worth seeing!

IWA INTER SOCIETY QUIZ at 'The Crown', Whyke Road, Chichester, on Saturday, 8th October. Come along and support your team from Southampton. Quiz starts at 8pm but please arrive a few minutes early to be settled in beforehand

CANAL BURST. More than 100 families trapped when a canal burst its banks were waiting to return to their homes last night.

Forty fire crews on Merseyside mounted a huge pumping operation after water from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal reached nearly 5ft at Maghull, on the outskirts of Liverpool, yesterday. Some people were evacuated from their homes in a dinghy. One man said "My ground floor became submerged in just 15 minutes". - Taken from The Mail on Sunday, 3rd October 1994.

LOTS TO LOCK FORWARD TO. Even during the holiday season Martin Cripps has been busy fixing entertainment and education for Autumn 1995 meetings. In the pipeline are visits from BCN Society, Rochdale Canal Society and the Cotswold Canal Trust.

THE HERBERTS have kindly agreed to accomodate the Society Exhibition Stand. The Stand enjoys outings - have you got a school or library near you where a display could be arranged? Our thanks to Les Osborn for storing the stand in the past.



Is this BOLLINDERS answer to
ELECTRIC powered NARROWBOATS!:

SILVER JUBILEE. Next year is WRGs 25th birthday and they are thinking of ways to celebrate it. Suggestions so far include a boat rally, a posh dinner, a Big Dig, an attempt to completely restore a lock in a week (by working shifts), a "Navvies' Olympics" etc. etc. Does anyone have any thoughts on the subject? if so, are they prepared to help make it happen? Ides to to Navvies for publication or passing on to the WRG publicity team.

NARROW BOAT RE-PUBLISHED. Fifty years ago one book inspired the campaign to conserve Britain's canals lest they be lost to future generations. Now regarded as a classic, *Narrow Boat* by the late LTC (Tom) Rolt, is to be re-published in October by Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd in conjunction with British Waterways' Canals 200 celebrations.

When Tom Rolt embarked from Tooley's Boatyard in Banbury, on *Cressy* his converted horsedrawn narrowboat, he set off on a 400 mile waterway journey that would bring him in contact with a vanishing way of life and a rural England not yet lost to new roads and urban sprawl.

Narrow Boat has preserved for us an inspiring and often moving record of a unique way of life, now sadly lost. Peter Clifford, publishing director for Alan Sutton Publishing, says, "Rolt's fame rests on the fact that he was unique in producing works of literature from subject matters which had not before been considered the stuff of literature."

When it was first published in 1944, Hugh Massingham wrote that in *Narrow Boat*, Tom Rolt 'is pleading for something that is part of the soul of England', while Sir Compton Mackenzie described it as 'an elegy of classic restraint'.

Narrow Boat is available now with 16 pages of photographs by Rolt's first wife Angela - many previously unpublished - selected by his widow, Sonia Rolt, plus the same beautiful linecut illustrations by Denys Watkins-Pritchard as used in the original.

The 'Canal Age' of two centuries ago saw Britain shaken from an agricultural to an industrial nation. The new canal age of the late 20th century has witnessed the transformation of the declining canal network to a nationally important part of our heritage, used and valued for recreation by millions.

This fine edition has a foreward by Charles Hadfield, founder member nearly 50 years ago with Tom Rolt, Robert Aickman and Frank Eyre of the Inland Waterways Association. He says 'one has only to.....attend a boat rally to realise Tom's achievement. Here he is once more, triumphantly alive.....'

The new edition of *Narrow Boat* by LTC Rolt is available from 29th September, price £8.99.

The ISBN is 0 7509 0806 8.

Taken from British Waterways Canals 200 Update, Issue 20.

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

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

THE CHICHESTER CANAL SOCIETY.

TRIPBOAT NOW IN SERVICE

Take a trip from the Canal basin to Hunston and enjoy the Canal as never before.

Journey time about 1 hour return.

Wheelchair platform hoist.

Boat takes 12 passengers.

HIRE ROWBOATING

Everyday 10am - 6pm.

14 ft rowing skiffs available from the Canal basin. £4.50 per hour.

Southampton Canal Society Library

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

RAY BROOKS, a member of Southampton Canal Society, shows 11 year old Jennifer Gawler from Eastleigh the work of the narrow boat artist during a demonstration at the Swan Centre. Ray, who is semi-retired, will be passing on other tips during a course on the subject to be held at Toynbee School in the autumn.

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