



Newsletter

October 1999

Issue 335

Boats at Botley Quay

On 12th September, the IWA Solent & Arun Branch held the fifth and final summer cruise up the River Hamble from Swanwick to Botley. Brian Evans went to by road to Botley and reports:

We got to Botley Quay at 2.15pm, just after most of the boats had arrived from Bursledon. About 200 visitors were watching the 'sailors' disembark from around 20 small boats; a busy and colourful scene.

The IWA had a sales table, as did the Botley & Curdrige Historical Society, and in between, under a large canvas stall, the ladies of the Historical Society were providing tea and scones for 'a donation'. It all seemed like a garden fête with a bit of boating.

Among the IWA items for sale were charcoal from Ampfield and flour ground at both Eling Tide Mill and Bursledon Windmill. These items had been brought up river as cargo.

The weather was glorious. Unfortunately, remembering that two years ago there were a few briars and nettles, I changed from shorts to long trousers before leaving home. I need not have bothered for in the interim period council workmen had tamed the site making a pleasant

picnic spot in a peaceful setting. A row of shrubs and trees had been planted, which will hopefully one day hide the too-close and overpowering housing development, and the grass was neatly mown so that Peter Boyce could lead the Wickham Morris dancers on a flat green sward. On the previous occasion they had performed one leg up, one leg down dancing on the sloping slipway.

The bad news was a large oak tree that had fallen from an opposite bank, blocking off the channel to a large part of the wharf, and the fact that I was only able to count five Southampton Canal Society faces in the crowd.

Most of the boaters left around 4.00pm, not wanting to be caught by the receding tide. Out in mid-channel Peter Glover gave us a twirl, I hope the photo will be a good one.

There was a bit of clearing up at the end and as usual the canvas-covered stall was loaded into the useful van of Alan and Anton White.

We owe our thanks to these two lads for the work that they have put in to make a success of the five Solent & Arun Branch summer cruises.

WATERWAYS QUIZ

In December last, the IWA Guildford and Reading Branch won the annual waterways 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 on Monday 22nd November 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 some "volunteers" to answer the questions so you'll be relieved to learn I'm not asking you to test your knowledge. 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 let me know - the sooner the better. I hope to include a map of where the venue is in next month's newsletter.

Peter Oates.

Society Sweatshirts - Last Reminder

Recently, there have been a couple of pieces about Society sweatshirts. The stock of 30th Anniversary sweatshirts from 1997 is almost depleted and it has been decided to make one last, **final** order. This will have to be based upon actual orders made by Society members through the Sales Stand or by contacting Paul Herbert on 01703 262365. So ... if you want one of these sweatshirts (or a spare), contact Paul immediately as he will be placing the order **this** month.

IWI Tour 2000

At our meeting in September, Hugh Gough showed us members of a *Waterways World* holiday enjoying themselves on the River Danube and the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal.

Inland Waterways International will be running a similar trip in September 2000 on the River Rhone in France, beginning near Marseilles, travelling north up the Rhone and on to the Saône. The holiday will take about 9 days.

There will be several side excursions, beginning with a visit to the Camargue and later two steam hauled railway trips.

The tour is for IWI members, but subscription to IWI is only £7.00.

Anyone wanting more details should contact Annegret Evans.



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

Treasurer & Membership:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS**7th October 1999**

A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association.

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

Waterway Miscellany 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).

August Meeting

At our August meeting a small (but select) audience sat almost spellbound as roses and castles materialised in front of them from the hands and brushes of Society member, Ray Brooks.

Originally self-taught, Ray subsequently attended one of Brian Collings' canal art classes at Stoke Bruerne and then developed his own style. Aware that Ray had gone on to paint many items, large and small, for friends and others he was a natural choice to be included on the Society's programme of guest speakers. He kindly agreed to come along to our August meeting to demonstrate canal art and his particular methods of working.

I don't know what we expected - most probably to sit in a small group around Ray whilst he showed us how to paint a small object. How wrong we would have been. Whilst Ray has taught canal art at adult education classes, he has never undertaken the type of venture as on this occasion - demonstrating to a largish audience. So that was his first 'first'. He had decided to erect two boards on easels so that we could more clearly see what he was doing, and therefore, was painting in a very large scale - his second 'first'. He was not finished there - he usually paints with enamels but, because of the large scale, this time he had decided to paint in oils - his third 'first' - if you understand what I mean!

Ray then started to enthral us as, together with a running commentary, he started to develop one of the traditional castle scenes - complete with all the usual features - mountains, lakes, boats and bridges, etc on one of the boards. Meanwhile - on the other board he started work on a traditional swag of roses. While Ray worked the audience plied him with questions on painting techniques and the history of canal art.

All too soon Ray had finished his demonstrations and we were able to see the two finished scenes. Marvellous!

In the view of those who attended this had been one of the best Canal Society evenings for many years. Many congratulations and thanks to Ray for agreeing to come along and demonstrating and sharing his skills with us - he clearly enjoys his craft!

Paul Herbert

September Meeting

Unfortunately Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock were unable to be at the September meeting so the slide show on the Chesterfield Canal had to be postponed until November. They had, however, arranged for Hugh Gough to come along and show some of his home-made video.

This turned out to be an excellent evening. The quality of Hugh's videos, both visual and sound, was super - far better than many of the productions that are available from 'professionals'.

For the first part of the meeting we be a journey in Birmingham, which took us up the Shropshire Union, on to Chester and the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port. Then returning south to Hurleston Junction we followed a trip up to Llangollen, where that part of the programme had to terminate.

After the break we travelled on a trip with readers of
(Continued on page 5)

Distributed by: Hunt & Co, Chartered Accountants,
123/124 High Street, Southampton, SO14 2AA.
Tel: 01703 225255

CHICHESTER CANAL

IWA has provided a grant of £600, through its Small Projects Fund, to Chichester Canal Society, for the redecking of pontoons in Chichester Basin. Whilst campaigning for full restoration of the Canal from Chichester through to the sea, the Society does a great deal to encourage public awareness of the Canal and waterways in general by providing boat trips and small boat hire from the Basin, for which the pontoons are a necessity. As well as raising public awareness, the boat trips and boat hire also provide income to support the activities of the Society.

IWA Head Office Bulletin Aug 1999



ROCHDALE CANAL

At British Waterways' 'Annual Meeting' on 21st July, David Fletcher, BW Chief Executive, announced that agreement had been reached in principle for arrangements which should secure the restoration of the Rochdale Canal and its subsequent funding.

Following an approach by Rochdale Canal Trust to The Waterways Trust (the BW controlled trust which runs the three main waterway museums), it has been agreed that The Waterways Trust will

- take over the freehold ownership of the Rochdale Canal,
- receive all grants due for the restoration and subsequent maintenance of the Canal, and
- raise a loan against the guaranteed grant payments to comply with the Millennium Commission timetable.

It is understood that Oldham Borough Council and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council will pay the interest on the loan. The Waterways Trust will then contract BW to undertake the restoration and subsequent operation of the Canal.

IWA Head Office Bulletin Aug 1999

SHOPPING TROLLEYS HAVE THEIR USES!

BW have risked becoming the butt of many jokes in the press by deliberately planting old shopping trolleys in a restored part of the Forth & Clyde Canal. The trolleys have been planted near BW's Glasgow Regional Office on the Glasgow Branch of the Forth & Clyde Canal for the benefit of a rare pondweed.

Bennett's Pondweed was first discovered in the Forth & Clyde Canal at Grangemouth in 1890, where it grew in ponds used to store wood. The plant thrived until 1937 when the then redundant ponds were drained, and was re-discovered in 1960, but in recent years has only been found in the Glasgow Branch of the Forth & Clyde Canal.

The pondweed was named after Arthur Bennett, an amateur botanist with a particular interest in pondweeds. It is a delicate plant which grows to over five feet in length and lives submerged in depths of up to 6 feet of water.

IWA Head Office Bulletin Sept 1999

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£2.25

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£16.00
with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

Sweat Shirts – Standard in Navy or Royal Blue£15.00
with Society logo embroidered on breast

Tea Towels – Various colourful designs£2.50 & £3.25

Tee Shirts – Screen printed with Society logo across chest£6.50
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 07/10/99 - 7.45pm - *Southampton Canal Society* A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association. Details from Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

Tue 12/10/99 - 8.00pm - *Surrey & Hants CS* "Let's Go Cruising" with David Freeman - talk and video including the Nile, the inside passage to Alaska and crossing the Arctic Circle in Norway. Westgate Centre, Woking. Details from Arthur Dungate on 0181 737 4896.

Mon 18/10/99 - 8.00pm - *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* "Lots to Do at The Soo" by Colin Ward at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details from Paul Miles on 01932 401505.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Latest maps: The Sales Stand now has the latest three waterway maps from GEOProjects. As we have come to expect with this series, these maps present the waterways concerned in a clear and easy to read style. At a cost of only £3.75 they must be considered a bargain. Go and see Ray or Paul on the Sales Stand soon. The three maps cover:

- Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal *with the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal*
- Trent & Mersey Canal - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction
- Trent & Mersey Canal and River Trent - Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock

BW - Proposed Membership and Waterways Trust Consultation

The consultation by BW over proposals for a membership scheme and a separate waterways trust continue to be the subject of much debate. IWA National Chairman, Richard Drake, referred to the topic in his speech following the opening of the IWA National Waterways Festival and Inland Boat Show at Worcester.

He said "The simple statements of intent put forward by British Waterways for this consultation are such that few could disagree with them. We do, however, have concerns and a meeting with British Waterways in the near future, I hope, will lead to a full and frank discussion of these concerns, so that we might influence the implementation of these plans that British Waterways have for the future."

The proposals have also been the subject of much debate at Branch and Region committee meetings and other IWA gatherings, where the general mood appears to be (a) welcoming towards the aims stated in BW's documents, (b) slightly guarded as to whether the good words will turn into good deeds, (c) concerned about the apparent lack of independence and accountability of the proposed trust

and (d) disappointed at the limited influence any "membership" of the public corporation is likely to provide.

IWA's Restoration Committee has written to all the waterway groups involved in restoration activity to seek opinions on BW's proposals. From the response received so far, the overwhelming view appears to be largely negative, with serious concerns that the membership scheme would be of little benefit to their own or IWA's members, and would not enhance BW's performance or increase its accountability as BW's brochure claims. Whereas some thought the proposed charitable trust could be worth proceeding with if it increased the total amount of funding for waterways, a majority were concerned about its lack of independence from BW and felt that it would compete with the groups for funding.

Whilst agreeing that many of the overall aims put forward in the consultation document appear desirable, the Association is very concerned at the manner in which responses to the consultation document are being sought.

IWA Head Office Bulletin Sept 1999

Inland Shipping

A one day conference entitled "Britain's Water Highways" will take place on 19th October in Birmingham, examining the opportunities for extending the commercial use of Britain's inland waterways and accessing the Trans European Network of water highways. The conference will be chaired by IWA's Inland Shipping Group Deputy Chairman, Dr David Hilling.

Speakers at the conference include Beverley Hughes MP, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment Transport & the Regions, and representatives from the Port of London Authority, BW, shipping companies and members of ISG.

The conference is organised by Central Conference Consultants Ltd (0115 916 3104) with technical advice on the programme by ISG's Captain Heather Mitchell.

IWA Head Office Bulletin Sept 1999

September Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

Waterways World up the Danube and along the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal as far as Nürnberg on the hotel boat *Esmerelda*. This was a very different trip with everything on a gigantic scale, wide river, deep locks and large commercial craft. We saw how great effort had been put into lessening the impact on the environment of the Alltmuhl Valley when the new canal had been excavated.

Not all members were happy that we should have gone Continental after the tea break. Hugh still had a lot of footage unshown about his return home from Llangollen, along the Trent & Mersey, Grand Union and Thames. To pacify those members we have asked Hugh to visit us again and show the rest of that particular journey. Meanwhile, many thanks for a very interesting evening.

As a result of Hugh's show, a donation of £50 has been sent to the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society to support the back-pumping project.

Brian Evans

Society Web-site

Don't forget to look at the Society web-site on the Internet. It is still attracting visits of more than one a day. Those with access to the Internet, have a look at our site for yourself at:

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

From the press

The following appeared in the H&V News (that's Heating and Ventilation) and was handed to me recently:

New construction to services firm Carillon and its mechanical and electrical services arm Crown House Engineering found a novel way of transporting a building services module to a Birmingham office building. They carried the module on a 38 ft canal barge along the city's extensive canal network to its destination - a £12 million office development. The barge began its journey at

Crown House's manufacturing centre in Wolverhampton and ended at Brindley Place, the site of the largest city centre mixed-use development in the country. Two hundred modules are being prefabricated by Crown House in Wolverhampton ready for installation as complete units at Brindley Place in a £2.75m contract.

What a surprise! Canals can be use to carry cargoes even if they're a "building services module", whatever that is. The accompanying picture from the cutting seems to show just a few pipes on a frame. Looks more novel than the narrow boat.