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Hunt&Co

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

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- 5th September - Engineering on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and  
Associated Waterways - Mr R House, British Waterways  
3rd October - The Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port - Tony Hirst  
Director  
7th November - European Waterways - Hugh McKnight  
5th December - American Supper and ?

**August Meeting** - As usual a good selection of slides were presented by  
members. There was a wide variety of subjects & those present were well  
entertain.

Mike Smetham began the evening with a variety including old aircraft seen  
flying at recent displays plus canal slides on the Staffs & Worcs, and  
Trent & Mersay canals.

Eric Lewis slides included the Leeds & Liverpool, a visit to Wigan Pier,  
the Barton Swing Aqueduct & boating on part of the Rochdale Canal.

Graham Hull took us on a cruise to the north Cape with some fine slides  
under the Midnight Sun.

Almost at the other extreme we 'helicoptered' over glaciers of New  
Zealand's southern alps by John Masters.

Frank Stokes rounded off the evening with a nice collection of slides  
showing a trip on the Leeds & Liverpool canal including the Bingley Five  
Rise.

**Waterways Festival** - At Dudley was well attended and with no admission  
charge space became at a premium, particularly on the BCN over-canal  
bridges, but generally progress could be made without to much delay. Good  
bank holiday weather for a change made a difference although overcast with  
sunny spells it was quite warm at times.

The site was well laid out and divided into three main areas with a short  
walking distance in between, a good selection of art and crafts along with  
chandlery and boat equipment and a varied selection of boats both in and  
out of the water were available for inspection provided by the trade.  
For those with plenty of stamina the tow-paths could be walked to view the  
700 or so private boats who attended the festival.

**1996 IWA National Waterways Festival** - The IWA is looking for a very  
special site for 1996, this should be approx 60 acres of flat grassland  
adjacent to a canal or river, the IWA's fiftieth anniversary, and anyone  
with ideas on where this should be please contact John Gale via the IWA.

**Port of London Authority** - regulations which came into force on 1st June  
now require all craft over 20 metres or 66 feet in length navigating below  
Teddington to carry a VHF Radio capable of communicating with the Thames  
Navigation Service. Note also that any operator of a VHF Radio must also  
have a Certificate of Compliance issued by the RYA and radio telephone  
equipment licence issued by the DTI.

These onerous conditions for the relatively few full length narrowboats  
using this section of the Thames seem very unfair and the IWA is to  
continue to try and get some relaxation for them.

**National Rivers Authority** - on the River Thames are proposing standard maximum boat sizes of 15 metres length by 3 metres width as a method of reducing waiting times at locks and boats falling outside these sizes will be charged penal licence rates.

This has met with considerable opposition and both the IWA and RYA are objecting to the proposals as this will force some users of the river and has implications for craft on all UK river systems if these proposals come into being without major modification.

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**British Waterways** - have opened a register for the estimated 1000 or so illegal houseboat dwellers who live on there boats on its waterways. There is now not much time left before the closing date to register at one of BW's six regional offices, and by doing so boaters without a houseboat certificate will be offered a five year amnesty .

Those applying to the register and for a houseboat certificate will be issued with a consent for temporary use of their boats as a home and a mooring permit for the present mooring or an alternative for up to five years. Where a permanent mooring cannot be found within five years they will be notified in advance in order to make alternative arrangements. Perminate moorings require planning permission and need to be fully serviced and at present BW currently issues 175 houseboat certificates a year and has identified further space for 360 more on suitable sites and is looking for more, mainly in London and the South East where the problem is at its worst.

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**Dates For Your Diary**

**7-8th September** - Bradford-on-Avon Wharf Show - Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.

**8th September** - River Hamble Cruise depart at 10.00am Swanwick Public Slipway for cruise to Botley, Curbridge and return - anybody with a small boat is encouraged to join in - contact Mike Laishley 0705 325000, - Solent & Arun Branch IWA.

**13-20th September** - Southampton Boat Show - National Boat Shows Ltd.

**21st September** - Skittle Evening with RNLi at Civil Service Club Hilsa, £ 2.50 - £ 3.00 including fish and chips - Solent & Arun Branch IWA

**4th October** - President and her latest fly run from London to Birmingham - D Stott - Porchester Community Centre - Solent & Arun Branch IWA.

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**Press Cutting** - The IWA requests members and others to send in to them from local and national papers cuttings as the form the only guide to what is being said about the waterways and the IWA, Trade and House magazines often provide good sources of information and cuttings as well. these articles also provide a basis for John Gagg's Waterways Cuttings article in the IWA magazine, and saves precious funds being expended on press cutting agency fees.

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**Waterway Recovery Group BIG DIG** 12-13th October 1991 This will take place on the Wilts & Berks Canal near Wantage in Oxfordshire and the plan is to reclaim over two miles of this derelict section. Work will consist of a large amount of scrub and tree clearing, removal of general rubbish, rebuilding of walls and fences, clearing tow-paths and preparation of sites for rebuilding demolished bridges.

This is the first time since 1977 that the WRG has organised a BIG DIG and is to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the WRG, with the aim of giving a big push to the full restoration plans of the Wilts and Barks Amenity Group. The WRG is looking for over a 1000 volunteers so book now :- Helen Davey, 42, Orchard Close, Alresford, Hampshire. SO24 9PY. Tel 0262 734909.

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**The Romance of the Waterways Royal Worcester Fine English Porcelain 'The Lock-keeper's Cottage'** is Plate Two in the series and takes u on a nostalgic canal journey through England's lush countryside. The plate is 8" diameter in full colour Bradex No: 26-R76-5.2 The cost of £14.95 plus £1.25 towards p&p and is being marketed by The Bradford Exchange Ltd, 24-28 London Road, Wembley, Middlesex. HA6 7HL.