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**NEWSLETTER No. 280  
SEPTEMBER 1994**

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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 1st September 1994**  
Small Steam Launches on  
Canals and Rivers  
by Dr. Roger Calvert.
- 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.

**AUGUST MEETING.** Members Night. Another entertaining evening of variety. First, Martin Cripps presented a short video excerpt from a TV programme featuring a Canadian canoeist on a journey from Oxford to Birmingham. Martin then followed up with his own slides of the Museum of the North-West at Ellesmere Port and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Bingley.

Murray Blowfield showed slides - various from Exeter to Eling, and of the Rivers Moselle and Rhine. All featured water and often boats. Many were of local scenes which encourage us to go and have a look for ourselves.

Frank Stubbs rounded off the evening with his record of the recent IWA visit to Ireland. It was interesting to hear how much enthusiasm the Irish Government has for canal restoration.

**FRENCH NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS** continue to attract British boats, and understandably so. One of the safest and simplest ways of getting, say, a narrowboat to France is to put it on a lorry and put the lorry on a cross-Channel ferry. This was seen a few years ago when some ex-Anglo Welsh boats were off to start a new life as hire boats on a French Canal. There is now a new way for lorries to cross the Channel by going beneath it, so which will be the first narrowboat to pass through the Channel Tunnel? We await the answer with photographic evidence if available, unless it's already been done!

**ARUN CRUISE.** Sunday 22nd May, 29 boats and 61 crew members set off from the Waters Edge Inn at Puiborough, West Sussex and cruised the 3½ miles to the limit of navigation at Pallingham Quay - and back.

Our members Peter Glover and Jim Lanigan were there to represent us (see Newsletter No 278 - July 1994) and thanks to them for taking part.

Thanks also to members who sponsored their efforts. £47.00 was raised by sponsorship and the Society will be topping up the sum to a round £50.00.

**IWA/WRG CHARITY BANK.** The Society has learnt that since August 1988 over £10,000 has been raised.

This is a permanent request which will continue indefinitely. There are now over 130 waterway restoration schemes underway in the British Isles and the money raised goes to support these.

You can help raise this money by bringing to Society meetings any of the following items. We will send them off to the Charity Bank when there is enough to save on the postage.

The items wanted are:- Old & new Green Shield, Co-op, Blue Chip, Pink, Look, Cash, Premier Gold, Supersave, Nationwide and all other types of trading stamps; Texaco, Gulf, Mobil, Shell, BP, Esso, Fina, Elf, Total, Burmah and all other types of petrol vouchers; Air Miles, cigarette coupons, silver foil, aluminium can ring pulls, Tetley, Brooke Bond and other tea vouchers, all denominations of used postage stamps, foreign coins and notes plus old 10p pieces.

**KENNET & AVON WALK.** The second National Waterway Walk along the K & A Canal was formally opened on 9th July. Members of the Ramblers Association then walked the 73 mile towpath in stages from Bath to Reading. Creation of the walk has been a joint effort by BW, local authorities and the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, led by project officer Martin Brown.

After just 15 months of fundraising by the Trust, the first part of works to solve the canal's water supply problems is underway. A pumping station is being built at the foot of the Devizes flight to resupply the top of the flight.

**IWA CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS** - Brochure now available. Please see the Chairman.



**200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL**  
 This two-day event will take place over the weekend of the 3rd & 4th September 1994 at the Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett, with its beautiful waterfront location and spacious grounds. There will be a varied programme of water and land based activities to include the following:-

Themed boat rally.  
 Dragon boat races.  
 Craft stands, canalware.  
 Entertainment: Day-Star theatre company, childrens' circus workshop & lots more.  
 Music & dance: jazz band, silver band, youth orchestra and morris dancing.

Boat trips (including horse-drawn boat).  
 Try-a-canoe and aqua fun.  
 Steam narrowboat 'President'

Below is an extract from the Eastleigh & South Hants Weekly News dated 17th August 1994. To learn more about the evening classes contact Ray Brooks on 0703 866272.

### *Canal boat paintings on display*

The traditional paintings of the narrow boat will be on display at the Swan Centre in Eastleigh next Wednesday, August 24th.

Ray Brooks, a member of the Southampton Canal Society, will be giving a demonstration of the art form from 10am-4pm, with paintings on to flat panels and examples of his work on buckets and kettles on show.

The demonstration is to promote a course of evening classes Ray will be holding at Toybee School in the autumn on the subject

**WIN THE CHAIR.** This year's 200th anniversary of the Basingstoke Canal is being celebrated by the Boats for the Handicapped Association with a grand draw. Based on the Basingstoke, the charity has commissioned a unique prize in the form of a hand-carved chair, with seat and back depicting the designs found on the Pinkerton Shilling. The original shillings were issued by the canal's builder to his workers in lieu of payment in coin of the realm. The Basingstoke token depicted on one side a sailing barge and on the other a barrow and navvies' tools. Other draw prizes of a wooden stool and a loving spoon are also hand-carved. Draw tickets at £1 each will be on sale at the following Basingstoke Canal 200th Anniversary events;

3/4 September - Anniversary celebrations, Canal Centre, Mytchett.  
 17/18 September - Basingstoke Canal Boating Club Rally, Fox & Hounds, Fleet.  
 Tickets are also available by post. Ring Janet Greenfield 0252 873167 for details.

The draw will take place at the last event above, the BCBC Rally, on Sunday 18th September.

**BOATS FOR THE HANDICAPPED** (mentioned above) is a very active organisation based on the Basingstoke Canal where a variety of vessels are available for day use by the disabled and now the push is on to complete fundraising for a boat suitable for holidays. Proceeds from the draw will help the Fleet based charity provide a 6/7 berth wide beamed boat to be used by families with handicapped members. There will be lifts at bow and stern, special gangplanks and hoists for use in the bathroom and at the side of some berths.

**WANT YOUR OWN CANAL?** Early Learning Centre  
 Aquaplay basic (figure of 8) - Ref 7698 - £22.95  
 Aquaplay lock - Ref 7551 - £24.95  
 Toys which make learning fun.

**BASINGSTOKE CANAL TWINNING.** Representations from organisations involved with the Canal d'Orleans will be making a return visit to the Basingstoke this year following a visit to the Canal d'Orleans in 1993. The visit will be over the weekend of September 3rd & 4th and will coincide with the Basingstoke Canal's 200th anniversary.

**CHICHESTER CANAL SOCIETY** needs volunteers for 27 duties ranging from tea makers to digger drivers. See Chairman for list.

**IWA Avon & Wilts Branch (Salisbury Group)** meetings at the Rugby Club, Castle Street, Salisbury.  
 Thursday 22nd September at 8pm - Talk by a canal artist  
 Thursday 24th November at 8pm - Canals of North America - illustrated talk by Gerry Hollington.

**CANAL 200 EVENTS** for September.  
 3rd/4th Bradford-on-Avon Wharf Show - boat rally, craft fair.  
 4th Guided walk round Darrow Hill, River Severn loop.  
 10th/11th Castlefields Carnival & Boat Rally, Manchester.  
 11th Slough Arm Canal Day.  
 11th Canals 200 Marathon. Guided sponsored circular charity walk.  
 River Severn, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.

#### **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

#### **Southampton Canal Society Library**

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