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**NEWSLETTER No. 286**  
**APRIL 1995**

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

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- 6th April 1995**  
New Forest Gunpowder Works  
by Tom Yoward
- 4th May 1995**  
The History of Waterways and  
Gloucester Docks  
by Tony Conder,  
Curator, National Waterways  
Museum, Gloucester.
- 1st June 1995**  
Steam Railway
- 6th July 1995**  
AGM plus ?
- 3rd August 1995**  
Members Slides  
(early warning -  
go out and take some)
- 7th December 1995**  
Inter Club/Section Quiz  
(Since we won at Chichester  
last year we host  
the 1995 quiz)

**Southampton Canal Society Library**

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

We have had three donations to the Library. Our thanks to the donors.

1. Video of the Bude Canal produced by the Bude Canal Society.
2. Northeast Waterways by Derek Bowskill.
3. A Pictorial History of Canal Craft by Peter L Smith.

**MARCH MEETING.** Although there is little remaining of Early Inland Navigation in Hampshire, Peter Boyce's illustrated talk certainly showed us where to go looking for the traces of it. One of the benefits of a local subject is that most of our members do not have to travel far to take advantage of the information. members may not find any boats but they were shown some interesting locations including excavations, buildings, coastline etc and in many cases some good countryside to walk in. Peter's talk was very clear and informative and was strongly supported by his very precise computer generated maps.

**COACH TRIP** to the BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM, DUDLEY on Sunday, 4th June, 8.00am from the Ordnance Survey (secure car parking).  
£12.00 - Coach, entrance to the Museum and Boat Trip into Dudley Tunnel.  
Contact Jon Sims - 01703 732868.

**BOAT TRIP** with Ordnance Survey Cine Club.  
THURSDAY 8th June. Leaving Southampton about 8.00am.  
Coach, for 24 people only, to Blisworth. £15.00 per person.  
Boat trip on 2 x 12 seat, self drive (steer) narrowboats with toilets and facilities to prepare hot drinks etc. Through Blisworth Tunnel, Stoke Bruerne and 2 or 3 locks south - depending on time available. Boats must be returned to Blisworth by 6.30pm. Back in Southampton about 9.00pm.  
Some places available - Contact Brian Evans (Chairman) on 01794 517115.

**THE CHICHESTER CANAL SOCIETY** is working hard to raise funds. As your representative, your Chairman (SCS) has received 40 raffle tickets. Please help him out and buy one/some.

**ARUN SPONSORED CRUISE.** Peter Glover is again taking his boat to represent SCS on the cruise on Sunday 23rd April. Please sponsor Peter. The cruise will leave the 'Waters Edge Hotel' at 10.00am going up river to the present limit of navigation at Pallingham. The round trip of 6.75 miles will end back at the hotel about 3.30pm.

**LIBRARY EXHIBITION** in Romsey Library was from 6th to 19th March. I was told it had generated considerable interest. Many of the exhibited items were borrowed from Society members. If YOU can book a lockable cabinet in your library then the same items are available to you and even some help to set up your exhibition. I have taken pictures of my exhibition that will maybe help others with layout. Chairman.

**MILITARY COUP IN WILTSHIRE.** Waterway Recovery Group (who are celebrating their Silver Jubilee this year) will be holding one of their (in)famous Big Digs (this time called 'Dig 95'). The date is set for 5th/6th November 1995, and the venue is the Thames & Severn Canal at the site of the intended Latton by-pass where a navigable culvert has yet to be agreed by the road builders. This will be WRG's first full scale Big Dig since over 1000 volunteers turned up to dramatically clear 3 miles of the Wilts & Berks Canal near Wantage in 1991. For this occasion, the close co-operation of the military has been agreed, involving tank movements in the area.

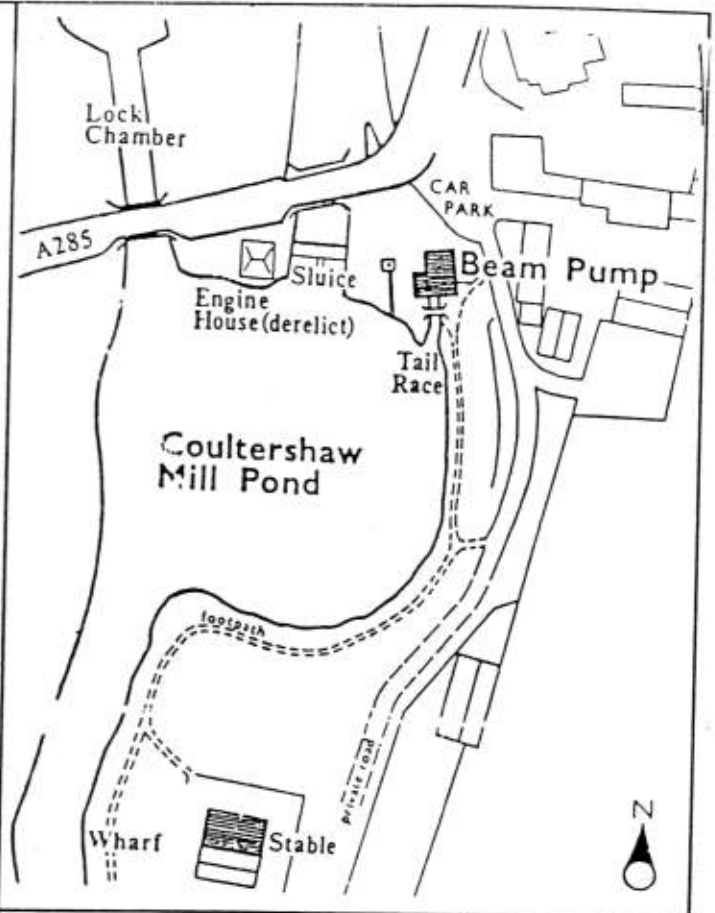
**KENNET & AVON CANAL.** It is planned for there to be a working boat rally at Newbury at the end of July. The museum at the wharf is putting on a special display and there should be a funfare in the park opposite the wharf. More details when they become available.



**YOU ARE INVITED** to join IWA Solent & Arun Branch on a visit to Coultershaw Beam Pump near Petworth, West Sussex on Sunday 16th July at 10.30am. (see map for location)

The waterwheel-driven, three-throw beam pump was installed in 1782 to pump water from the River Rother to Petworth, 1.5 miles away and 150ft higher.

In addition to the unique 18th century Beam Pump the building also contains a variety of smaller water pumps, many in working order. The upper floor has displays on the history of pumping, the Rother Navigation to Midhurst and the history of the Coultershaw locality. A visit to the Beam Pump can include a canal stable and warehouse building plus a derelict lock chamber of the Rother Navigation.



**IWA - SALISBURY GROUP.** The meeting on 25th May will be an illustrated talk on the Basingstoke Canal by Jon Sims and Peter Oates. The meeting is held in the Salisbury Rugby Club on Castle Road (A354 to Amesbury).

On Sunday 21st May at 10.30am, the group is planning to take a cruise on John Pinkerton on the Basingstoke Canal. The cruise will last 2.5 hours and the cost is approx £2.00. Further details from Pat Sharp, 80 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wilts SP4 7AT. Telephone 01980 622677.

**YOUR LAST CHANCE** to order new sweat shirts or Tee shirts from Martin Cripps before he contacts the makers.

#### **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

Notelets, with line drawings of canal scenes, by your Chairman.

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

**NAVVIES BACKFILL.** Item from the BW canal stoppages list.

"The old Kirkstall Brewery, adjacent to the canal, is being redeveloped into student flats by Leeds Metropolitan University. At this early stage of works an old submarine pump is to be lifted out of the brewery building, by a crane stood on the canal bridge."

Two questions immediately spring to mind.

- 1) What exactly did the brewery need a submarine for? In-depth analysis of the product?
- 2) What (if any) conversion work is actually required in order to turn a brewery into suitable accommodation for students?

**CANALS ALIVE** - Dates for your diary.

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|----------------------|---|
| 14th - 17th April    | Traditional narrowboat gathering, Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.                           |
| 24th April - 7th May | Exhibition of canal paintings by Alan Firth, The Stop House, Braunston.                 |
| 6th - 8th May        | Saddleworth Canal Festival, Trail boats & rally. Huddersfield Canal.                    |
| 6th - 8th May        | Canalway Cavalcade, Little Venice, London.  |
| 8th May              | Model Tugs - Towing Event, Demonstrations and competitions, Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. |