

Newsletter

August 1999

Issue 334

BW Membership Scheme Consultation

British Waterways launched the much heralded consultation for their 'membership scheme' and a separate waterways trust at a well attended presentation at London Zoo on June 17th. That the proposals have the clear support of Government was testified in a speech, made by a senior civil servant, in the absence of and on behalf of the Waterways Minister, Alan Meale MP.

A 20 page glossy brochure detailing the proposed 'membership scheme' and charitable trust is widely available from BW. Copies can be obtained by post from BW's Watford Head Office on 01923 201115.

BW say they have identified three major themes that they believe will capture the imagination of "the millions of people who care about and value the nation's environment and heritage":

- Waterways leisure and education
- Waterways 'A living heritage network'
- Waterway wildlife.

To capture this interest, BW propose to establish a membership scheme open to all members of the public and voluntary organisations with an interest in the waterways.

BW claim that the new membership scheme, if successful, would "enhance British Waterways' performance, increase accountability by enabling it to develop a more direct relationship with a wider spectrum of the public using its waterways, and provide increased support for, and involvement in, the waterways."

BW recognise, however, that a 'membership scheme' alone would not realise all the objectives to which they aspire, and that a separate charitable trust would offer "financial advantages which could make an important contribution to sustaining, and indeed enhancing, much of the recent impetus towards restoration of derelict waterways and their environs."

BW envisage that members of the public would be able to 'join' BW as "individuals (junior/adult) or families, with subscriptions payable on an annual or life basis. Existing waterway related organisations would be invited to affiliate to the membership scheme, which would entitle their members to a discount on individual membership. There could also be provision for corporate members, allowing companies who wished to support the waterways to become involved."

BW envisage the following benefits to be available to 'members':

- a waterways handbook,
- newsletter (3 or 4 times per year),

- reduced admission costs to waterway museums,
- Discount vouchers from holiday hire boat firms and other waterway related businesses,
- waterway related events and lectures
- an education programme
- opportunities to take part in volunteer activities.

BW's document also suggests that "the membership scheme might also, if it attracted sufficient members, provide a vehicle for nominating a member to the Board of British Waterways. For example, once the scheme reached 100,000 members, they might be invited to elect one of their number, who would be nominated to the Secretary of State as a potential member of the Board."

The objects of the proposed charitable trust would be:

- to help conserve the natural and built environment of the inland waterways in the UK for the benefit of the public,
- to promote the restoration, development and use of the inland waterways for navigation and commerce,
- to provide (or encourage others to provide) facilities for leisure and recreational use of the waterways, and
- to educate the public about inland waterways and their history.

These appear very similar to IWA's own objectives!

BW envisage that "such a trust would take responsibility for projects, particularly of an educational, heritage or environmental nature, where a charitable vehicle separate from British Waterways would be useful for involving other stakeholders, raising funds and providing a degree of independence." The trust would, however, effectively be controlled by BW nominees.

BW suggest that "where it would provide substantial benefit (e.g. to achieve restoration or secure the future of a waterway), the trust could acquire a waterway not managed by British Waterways, or hold it on a long term lease in the case of a waterway managed by British Waterways."

The remit of the trust could extend to all waterways, not just those in BW's present areas and ownership. The trust would not have its own membership scheme, but might look to 'members' under BW's scheme to provide support. It is not clear whether an entirely new trust would be set up, or whether the existing waterways museum trust would be expanded in its range of activities. Its current remit is very widely drawn and it may assist with funding

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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:

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Committee:

Tony Coles
Martin Cripps
Paul Herbert
Peter Oates
David Townley-Jones

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

- 5th August** Ray Brooks will be Demonstrating Canal Crafts
- 2nd Sept** The Chesterfield Canal with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates
- 7th Oct** A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association
- 22nd Nov** Annual Waterways Quiz organised by last year's winners, IWA Guildford & Reading Branch at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking

Subscriptions

This is a further reminder to members that subscriptions to the Society for the year 1999-2000 became due at the AGM in June. Subscriptions remain at: Single £6.00 and £9.00 for the Family rate.

July Meeting

Neil Kearns of the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society was our speaker and we learned that the restoration of railway engines is just as difficult and, if anything, a more dirty job than restoring canals.

He showed us slides covering the arrival at Eastleigh of the Southern Railway locomotive 828 from the scrap yard, right through its restoration stages to gleaming machine on its early tests and train pulling trips. A cold, heavy and dirty task, the work was either completed in the open air or in draughty makeshift shelters. The engine was later named 'Harry Frith' after the prime mover and chief engineer on the project. Although a bit technical for some members, we learned a lot about engine restoration and design and also about the running of railways.

Being in the right place, at the right time, in the right weather to photograph the engines out on the move seemed to be an art in itself.

With main line railways becoming busier and modern trains getting faster, Neil Kearns predicts that main line steam trips will soon be a thing of the past. But at least we will still be able to visit these beautiful machines working on preserved lines dedicated to steam.

His talk ended with pictures of the arrival at Eastleigh of 'Lord Nelson', from York, which is at present being restored by the Society. 828 is now working on the Swanage Railway.

Society Sweatshirts

Last month there were a couple of pieces about Society sweatshirts. Just to jog your memory in case you wanted to order:

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 haven't got one of these sweatshirts or if you need a spare, contact Paul without delay.

It was also announced that the Committee were considering a new design of sweatshirt to celebrate the Millenium. Are you interested in this idea and would you be interested in purchasing a special (limited edition) Society souvenir? If so, please let Paul or Ray on the Sales Stand know, or ring Paul on the above number.

Thanks

A sincere thank you to those members who have recently donated prizes to the raffle.

Society Newsletter

As your editor will be on holiday (including a visit to the National Waterways Festival at Worcester) at the end of August and beginning of September, there will be no September issue of the Newsletter this year.

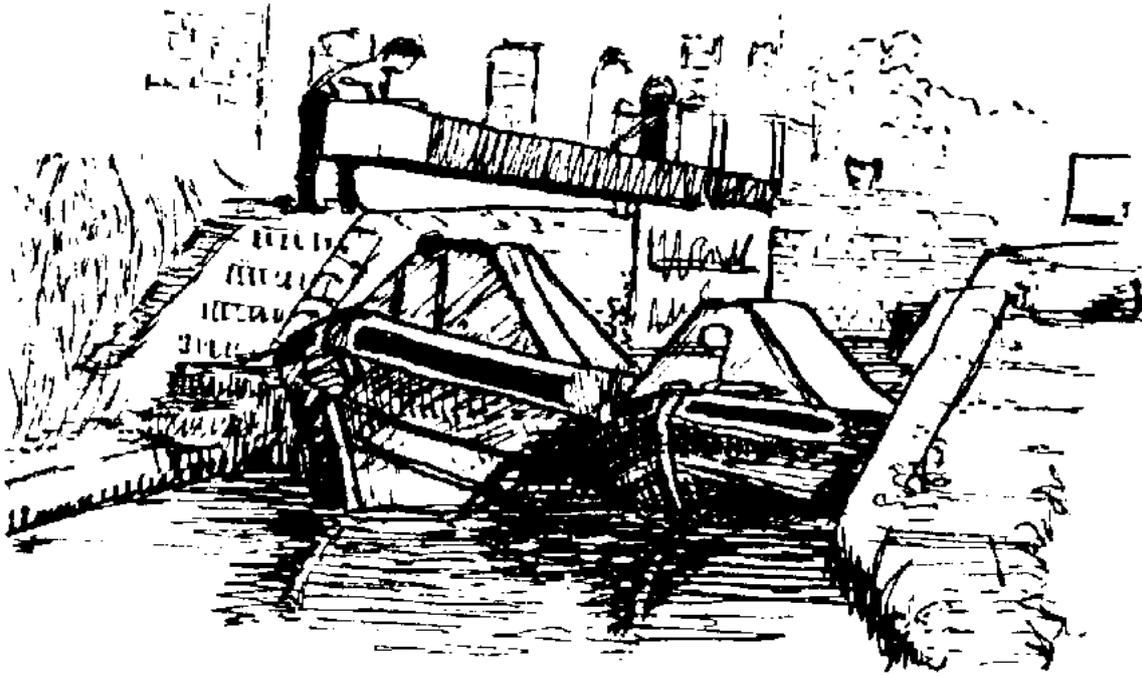
Hope to see lots of you at Worcester!!

Society Web-site

The Society web-site on the Internet has continued to attract visits (nearly one a day) during July. Thanks to Chris Williams for your kind comments. Those with access to the Internet, have a look at our site for yourself at:

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

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Proposed Society Trip for the Millennium

In last month's newsletter, there was a note about the possibility of a Society outing being organised next year.

In response to that, your editor received an email with suggestions about such a trip:

Ref: Millenium Trip

Perhaps to the Wey & Arun, as most of the other local canals are accessible by members of the public throughout their length, whereas the Wey & Arun provides 'in-water' sections with trip boat access, as well as sections under restoration, some closed to the general public.

If there is not enough for a day trip to the Wey & Arun, perhaps could be combined with a trip on the Wey.

(Many thanks for the organisation for the Romsey Walk / Signal Box visit)

Chris Williams

Seems like a good idea - but has anyone any other ideas? Even if you agree with Chris' ideas, let your Committee know so they can plan a trip that members will want to go on in Millennium year.

When more information is to hand, including likely dates and costings etc, details will be published in a future newsletter.

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

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton during this year. 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 05/08/99 *Southampton Canal Society* Ray Brooks will be Demonstrating Canal Crafts.

Sat 14/08/99 11.30am - 1.30pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Dragonfly Walk with canal ranger Pete Bickford. £1 per person. Meet at Lock 15, Pirbright. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

Sat - Sun 21/08/99 - 22/08/99 *Somerset Navigators Boat Club* - Taunton Water Festival. Contact John Tucker on 01823 490443.

Sun 22/08/99 *Chichester Canal Society / IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Chichester Canal Water Fair. Fun event in support of restoration of the Ship Canal. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Thu 26/08/99 7.30pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Bat Slide Show followed by a bat walk along the canal. £1 per person. Meet at Canal Centre, Mytchett. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

Fri - Mon 27/08/99 - 30/08/99 IWA National Waterways Festival & Inland Boat Show, Worcester. Contact Edwina Wallace on 01530 270714

Thu 02/09/99 7.45pm. *Southampton Canal Society*. The

Chesterfield Canal with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates.

Sun 12/09/99. *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - River Hamble Cruise from Swanwick to Curbridge and Botley. Autumn cruise to a double destination using Hampshire's unique double tides. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

Sat - Sun 18/09/99 - 19/09/99 *Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society* - Fox and Hounds Boat Rally, Crookham Road, Fleet. Contact Roger Cansdale on 01252 616964.

Wed 23/09/99 7.30pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Bat walk along the canal. £1 per person. Meet at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham. Contact BCA on 01252 370073.

Thu 07/10/99 *Southampton Canal Society* A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association.

Mon 22/11/99 *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.

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.

British Waterways Membership Scheme

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for the Anderton Boat Lift and Millennium Link restorations.

The trust concept is well established as a vehicle for managing heritage and environmental organisations, and for fund-raising. Many of IWA's corporate members are charitable trusts set up to promote the restoration of waterways. Also, many local authorities have created associated trusts to manage and raise funds for functions such as museums, parks and leisure operations

As part of the launch of BW's proposals, a new web-site has been introduced: <http://www.waterwaypartners.co.uk> which gives further detail to BW's intentions and provides an option for instant comment to BW. In addition, there are to be a series of Regional Forums around the country,

each giving a full presentation from BW staff [those in August]:

5th August Birmingham

6th August Gloucester

10th August Leeds

12th August Nottingham

19th August London

IWA's Council will be considering BW's proposals at its July and September Council meetings, but in the meantime, Branch and Region officers are encouraged to attend BW's regional presentations and to then make their views known to Council rather than to BW direct.

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Perhaps SCS members could also inform IWA HQ (PO Box 114, Rickmansworth, WD3 1ZY) of their views on these proposals. The effect of such a trust could be to bring about far reaching changes to the waterway scene.

