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NEWSLETTER No. 250 DECEMBER 1991

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 5th December - American Supper and simple quiz by Peter Armitage of Manor Farm Country Park where members will be presented with a range of old farming and related implements and will have to guess their use. Followed by a brief talk by Peter on the actual use.
- 2nd January - Southampton to Salisbury Canal - illustrated talk by our Librarian - Mike Smetham.
- 6th February - Paint your Narrowboat by International Paints - P Bennett. This should include not only painting and decorating boats on the inland waterways but also general information on corrosion prevention, selection, preparation and application.
- 5th March - History of Wind and Water Mills - John Silman.
- 2nd April - 'My Latest Waterways Slides' - The Chairman.

NOVEMBER MEETING. Another visit (the 4th?) from Hugh McKnight with a brand new subject of which, before the meeting, we knew little.

Hugh claims to have been in the first crew to take a British registered boat into the eastern part of Germany since 'the wall' was dismantled. He gave a lively account, illustrated with first class slides, of their journey through both busy commercial waterways and quiet lakes.

We heard a number of amusing stories and from time to time were taken from the waterways briefly to visit a town centre or restaurant.

Members learned about the waterways of Eastern Germany but also had a geography lesson and even touched just a little on politics.

We thank Hugh for travelling to Southampton to give us a very amusing and entertaining evening.

MAPS of the Kennet & Avon and Basingstoke Canals by GEOprojects are now available from the Society sales stand.

RIVER ARUN Guide by Garry Skinner. Now in the Society Library and can be borrowed from Mike Smetham.

THE POPULARITY of Inland Waterways. The Chairman has recently given 3 slide shows and has 4 others booked in 1992 for January, February, October and November.

DID YOU have an enjoyable canal holiday in 1991? Write a few lines about it to NEWSLETTER - An amusing happening - a difficulty - did your porridge stick to the saucepan while you wound up paddles? Write and tell us all about it.

EDITORS NOTE - I have just been looking at some old Southampton Canal Society newsletters. The 100th Edition dated May 1977 ran to 10 pages of which about 7 pages were contributed by members. Current members please take note.

Appeal to save maritime museum

A FUNDRAISING appeal was being launched today to save an internationally important maritime museum which could be sunk by the recession.

Exeter Maritime Museum in Devon may close within the next two weeks unless £250,000 is raised.

Southern Evening Echo
19-11-1991

SOCIETY CALENDARS for 1992. Available from our sales stand. First Thursday in each month highlighted so that you do not forget to attend meetings!!! ONLY 25p
PENCIL IN these 1992 dates on your new Southampton Canal Society Calendar -

National Trail Boat Rally at Taunton - 23rd-25th May
Gloucester Docks Gathering - 4th-5th July

CONSIDERING taking your school, cubs, scouts on a camping narrow boat? Prices from £32 per person per week.

Birmingham and Midland Canal Carrying Co Ltd., Worcester Bar Basin, Gas Street, Birmingham. B1 2JU.

Telephone 021-236-7057

SOMERSET NAVIGATIONS

IWA SOUTHWESTER - Autumn 1991

Implementation of the proposals for a network of waterways for boating in Somerset was brought one step nearer during August when all the participating authorities agreed upon a draft brief, inviting consultants to tender for a Phase 1 Report upon economic viability, engineering requirements and environmental impact of the proposals.

The Canal Advisory Committee of Somerset County Council recently agreed the budget proposals to enable the restoration of the Bridgewater & Taunton Canal to be completed. During the submission by the County Planning Officer, several members commented upon the increased use of the Canal by walkers and boaters and what a popular facility it was proving to be.

WATERWAYS FOR BULK CARGO

IWA SOUTHWESTER - Autumn 1991

Inland waterways proved their value for carrying bulk items in August when a 165 tonne filtration unit was carried by coaster on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. The cargo, manufactured by Serck Baker alongside the canal in Gloucester, was transported by the Danish coaster 'Sine Boye'. Andrew Stumpf, Waterway Manager, said "This cargo demonstrates the versatility of our broad inland waterways, when wildlife, recreation and bulk cargo carrying can exist in harmony."

CHRISTMAS QUIZ - Bring your answer sheets to the January meeting - There will be a small PRIZE for the most correct answers - The answers will be published in the February newsletter.

1. The first length of the Bridgewater Canal was opened from Worsley to Manchester in which year? (A) 1756 (B) 1759 (C) 1761
2. The pound lock was first used in Britain on which waterway? (A) River Thames (B) Exeter Canal (C) River Wey
3. The inclined plane has been used on some canals both at home and abroad to avoid excessive loss of water and time. The first in Britain was opened in 1789 on which canal? (A) Bude Canal (B) Grand Western Canal (C) Ketley Canal
4. A famous modern inclined plane is that at Ronquieres in Belgium. What is the difference in levels that this structure overcomes? (A) 176 feet (B) 222 feet (C) 258 feet
5. In which part of the country were sailing vessels known as 'trows' in common usage? (A) River Severn (B) Norfolk Broads (C) Yorkshire
6. Staircase locks consist of a series of locks with top gates of each lock forming the bottom gates of the lock above. The single staircase with the largest number of lock chambers in Britain is at which location? (A) Bingley (B) Banavie (C) Foxton
7. When did the last barge reach Winchester from Wood Mill? (A) 1869 (B) 1885 (C) 1906
8. On which canal in England is the earliest tunnel to open that is still navigable? (A) Trent and Mersey (B) Chesterfield (C) Staffs and Worcs
9. What is the name of the 70 foot long towrope that might be used by a pair of narrowboats? (A) Cratch (B) Keb (C) Snubber
10. Who or what were 'Greasy Deckers'? (A) Cabin boys on Mersey flats sailing from Liverpool (B) Crew members of Birmingham based steam powered narrowboats (C) A kind of ground paddle
11. What is the name of the junction of the Ashton and Peak Forest Canals?
12. Which two waterways does the Anderton Lift connect?
13. Which town is situated at the southernmost extremity of the connected inland waterways system?
14. When did the last boat navigate to Basingstoke Wharf? (A) 1890 (B) 1913 (C) 1933
15. What was the name of the boat made famous by the late L.T.C. Rolt in his classic book 'Narrow Boat'?
16. Now restored, the 29 locks of the Devizes flight enable boats to climb or descend how many feet? (A) 224 (B) 247 (C) 261
17. What was the last inclined plane to be used on the canals of England? (A) Trench (Shropshire Union Canal) (B) Foxton (Grand Union Canal) (C) Marhamchurch (Bude Canal)

***** A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS *****

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