



Chairman : Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, Romsey, Hants.
:Tel:- 01794 517115

Treasurer & Membership : Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Hants
:Tel:- 01703 860384

Secretary : Martin Cripps, 42 Delamere Road, Southsea, Hants.
:Tel:- 01705 753241

**NEWSLETTER No. 284
FEBRUARY 1995**

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 2nd February 1995**
The Grand Union Canal
1793-1993
& Today's Waterway Engineering
by Chris Mitchell
BW Waterways Manager.
- 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.
- 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.

MANY THANKS to all those members who sent me get well cards and kind wishes during my recent spell in dry dock. Brian Evans.

REVISED CONSTITUTION. A copy, with amendments, as adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 1st December 1994, is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please retain it in a safe place and discard (recycle) all others.

BWB CANALS 200 Exhibition has now completed its 2 year tour and has been dismantled. It will be replaced by 'Canals Alive'.

DONATIONS of £50.00 each have been made to the Inianki Waterways Association following Frances Hart's talk in November and to the Kennet & Avon Trust for Terry Kemp's evening in January.

CANAL CAMPS '95 is now out. This is the list of Waterway Recovery Groups working holidays. Ideal for young people working towards a Queens Scout or Duke of Edinburgh's etc. award.

These 'holidays' extend from February through to Christmas 1995 and take place from Bude in the South West to Huddersfield in the North and also over the sea to the Ulster Canal.

Details and the full list from the Chairman.

CANAL CLOSURES ROAD. Traffic on the A1137 road through the centre of Boston was diverted for ten days last November while BW replaced the two sea gates at the end of the Witham Navigation.

Weighing 15 tonnes each and measuring 20x26ft, the gates are amongst the largest ever made at the Stanley Ferry Workshop. They are made of ekki, one of the tropical hardwoods from managed forests, which is replacing oak as a material for lock gates.

BOOK COLLECTORS. Waterway Recovery Group has been left a large collection of waterways books. The books will be sold by postal auction and all proceeds will go to WRG Canal Camps. Reserve prices have been set at absolute minimum by Mark Baldwin, specialised book dealer. A list appears in the 'Navvies' No 148 - the Chairman will have his copy at the February meeting - but hurry for bids must be received by Neil Edwards (WRG Auction) no later than 15th February.

SEVERN BORE. The prediction list for the Severn Bore in 1995 is disappointing. It is not anticipated that a 'large' bore will occur this year. Predictions of 'fairly large' bores, during daylight hours, are made for the 1st and 2nd February, 3rd and 19th March, 17th April and 24th November. All other 'fairly large' bores are during the hours of darkness. Timings of these bores are available from Newsletter Editor.

A leaflet about the Severn Bore giving dates and times of all of the bores, no matter what size, is available from:-
National Rivers Authority, Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 7JG.

Southampton Canal Society Sale:

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

Nctelets, 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

SWEATSHIRTS. An order for supplies is to be sent off quite soon. If you have a special order, i.e. size or colour then please contact Martin Cripps.

JUBILEES

IWA GOLDEN JUBILEE. Celebrations begin with the 1995 National Festival at Chester in August and continue for 16 months until the end of 1996. During that time there will be many special functions with the accent on recruiting and fund raising.

In Issue 2 of the IWA Jubilee Journal there are already 33 events planned on specific dates and 16 further events planned but with the dates to be announced.

What can **WE** do in our area to increase the awareness of the work of the IWA? Ideas please.

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP celebrates its twenty fifth anniversary this year - 1995. A paragraph in the Comment column of the WRG magazine 'Navvies' No 148, January/February 1995 states - "WRG is known only to a tiny percentage of the general public, and although most waterways users have heard of us, many don't really know what we do or who we are."

If any SCS members wants to know more about Canal restoration, the minimum subscription to 'Navvies' is only £1.50 - and that is for 6 issues! (Doesn't even pay for the postage.)

NEW CANALS?

1) A campaign to create a new link from the River Ouse at Bedford to the Grand Union Canal is being spearheaded by Brian Young, an active member of the Cambridge Branch of the Inland Waterways Association. This new route would offer possibilities of easy access between the river systems of the Fens and East Anglia and the main canal network. There have been two previous attempts at building this navigation; the first in 1810 with a group involved in a joint venture with the Grand Junction Canal Company, that failed in 1813, and a second proposal in the early 1890s that reached the House of Lords but failed in 1894.

Approved plans for the new Marston Vale Community Forest, under the auspices of English Heritage, propose to develop the area between Bedford and the M1 motorway into a range of water recreation and nature conservation facilities. Brian Young believes that a canal could be included in the plans and is gathering support for the creation of a Bedford-Grand Union Navigation Trust to promote the scheme.

Estimates for the project are thought to be in the range £17-25 million, but the first step is a detailed technical feasibility study at approximately £50,000. Possible sources of funding include the Millennium Commission, for which stage 1 of the application must be lodged by the end of February.

British 'Waterways' proposals for water transfer via the canal system included increasing the water supply into the River Ouse. Supporters of the new link argue that the transfer of water from the Grand Union through the controlled environment of a canal would be preferable and, if that was the case, some funds might be available via that project.

2) Basingstoke Canal. The Surrey and Hants Canal Society has been working on the restoration of the canal from the west end of Greywell Tunnel towards Penny Bridge outside Basingstoke. Beyond Penny Bridge, developments such as the M3 and A30, as well as the building of the town's bus station on the original terminal basin, made further progress seem most unlikely. The borough council is now adopting a scheme for restoration of the canal from the town centre 1.75 miles to Old Basing House. This is expected to cost about £4.8 million over the next five years; it appeals to the council as a means of providing a central focus to the town which is lacking one at present.

The canal society has expressed amazement and excitement at this proposal to restore part of the length of canal which they had thought 'lost' and is naturally enthusiastically supporting it and the next stage of the proposals which would link up to their present restoration site. This would leave the question of navigating round or through Greywell Hill to be solved before the Basingstoke Canal becomes a complete entity once more.