



## STOP PRESS

As a result of the difficulties posed by the Christmas / New Year period, including several days frozen in on the Oxford Canal near Napton and a late return to work, I was unable to produce a January issue of the Society Newsletter.

However, I had promised in the December Newsletter that a map and directions to our new monthly meeting place would be available to enable you all to get to the next meeting. So these are included with this note. I also take the opportunity to pass on several items of news which members might like to know about.

### **Brian Evans**

Our chairman has been suffering from ill health for the last few months. On the Wednesday before Christmas, Brian had a serious operation on an aneurysm (a swollen blood vessel) which was life threatening. As a result Brian spent Christmas in Southampton General Hospital, although he was home for the New Year. Brian is now on the mend but his convalescence is likely to take some weeks. I am sure that all members will join with me in wishing him well in his recovery from the ordeal.

### **Joyce Mayhew**

Whilst getting ready to come to the January meeting to serve us our teas and coffees, Joyce fell in her kitchen and broke her arm in two places. I understand that the bones returned to the correct position on their own accord and Joyce was spared the need for traction etc. I also understand that she's raring to go to the February meeting. Hope you have a speedy recovery, Joyce, and we all look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

### **Future meetings**

After several abortive attempts to fix up a speaker for our February meeting, I have arranged for Tony Pratt from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust to speak to us. His talk will include an account of a "Bullion Run" on the Portsmouth to London route in 1825 based on records from the time. The second half of the talk will be about the restoration of the Wey & Arun Canal and its progress, all illustrated with slides. Tony will also be bringing along a few sales goods such as walk guides, books, etc

Thus our next few meetings are as listed below. Also, don't forget the new venue.

### **1st February 2001**

Illustrated talk by Tony Pratt on the Wey & Arun Canal (see above)

### **1st March 2001**

Speaker from the "Friends of Raymond" talking about the restoration of this wooden narrow boat

### **5th April 2001**

"Last of the Narrowboat Families" - a talk by Terry Putnam about narrow boat carrying in the late 60's on the Grand Union

Peter Oates 11 January 2001