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HUNT
& Co

NEWSLETTER No. 266 JULY 1993

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- 1st July - The Isle of Wight Steam Railway - Past, Present and Future by
Jim Loe, Commercial Director, IOW Railway Co Ltd.
5th August - Members slide and Film Night.
2nd September - Wey South - Progress by the Wey and Arun Canal Trust by John
Wood, Secretary & Vice Chairman, Wey and Arun Canal Trust.
7th October - The History and Preservation of the Steam Narrowboat
'President' by Richard Thomas.
4th November - An artists view of waterways by Harley Crossley.
2nd December - American Supper and ?
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6th January - Another Three Men in a Boat. A late 1950s journey around
England's Waterways, in a Thames camping skiff by Roger Hardy.
3rd February - Our Waterways Heritage by Mrs Frances Hart, Chief Executive
of the Inland Waterways Association.
3rd March - European Waterways, further travels on film and slide by
Hugh McKnight.
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AGM - COMMITTEE. Since there were no nominations and no volunteers, the
committee remains exactly as it was for last year.

SUBS. Please note that subscriptions are now due. It was agreed at the AGM
that Individual Subscriptions should be increased to £5.50 and Family to £8.00.
MANY THANKS to Clive Chance for auditing the Society's accounts.

WANT TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY? The Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port has a postcard
collection and postcards are featured in exhibitions from time to time.

TODAYS POSTCARDS are tomorrows history so please help to add to the
collection. On 20th July the Post Office will issue a set of four postage
stamps to commemorate Canals 200. What a good day then to send your postcard to
the Museum with a commemorative stamp.

Have your postcard ready - waterway or boat - please date it, also with
the year, since one day it will be an old postcard. Put a little message on it,
where you bought the card or where you are at the time etc. - and that you
belong to Southampton Canal Society (if you feel that is worth mentioning!)

This idea will be an ongoing thing with the Museum, so if you would like
to send postcards to the Museum from future holidays then they will be very
carefully collected.

ADDRESS to send your postcards to:-

Postcard Collection, The Boat Museum, Dockyard Road, Ellesmere Port, L65 4EF.

CHICHESTER CANAL. Below are details of several events aimed at fund raising
being organised by the Chichester Canal Society over the next couple of months.
If anyone can spare some time to help with any of the events please contact:-
Bryan Palmer, Ailsa, Scant Road West, Hambrook, Chichester, PO18 8UA. Tel:-
0243 573839.

- 4th July - Canal Walk and Strawberry Cream Teas.
10th July - Beer Barrel Races.
16/17th July - Music Concerts.
28th August - Water Fayre.

LIBRARY. Les Osborn has agreed to be the new keeper of the books.

NEW LIBRARY BOOK. "The Old Bude Canal" - a walking guide giving details of the whole canal, those parts of the towpath open to the public for walking and the best viewing sites from public roads for the less energetic.

BAR-BQ. Salisbury Group of the IWA are organising a barbecue at the Red Lion public house, West Dean. Cost will be £3.50.

Further details from Dave Hawkins, 759 Netheravon Road, Durrington, Salisbury. SP4 8AX. Telephone:- 0980 537534.

NEW BOOKS.

1. "Exploring the Grand Western Canal in Somerset" by Jean Hall & Joy Yeates.

Following a brief introduction to the canal, its history and engineering features, this 23 page booklet describes a walk along the route between Lowdells and Taunton. Short detours from the canal line to nearby places of interest are included, as are attractive line drawings. The second part of the book is in the form of eight short (half day) walks, each based on the canal. Simple sketch maps are provided, but they are probably best used with Ordnance Survey maps.

Price £1.20 (inc p&p) from the authors at Kessenyans, 2 Barnardo Road, St Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NE.

2. "Between Two Rivers" by Gordon Moore & Chrissie Franklin.

Even if you live outside the HTV area, this attractive booklet 'inspired by the popular HTV programmes' is an excellent read. It recounts the history of the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals and divides the route between Framilode and Inglesham into five sections. Each has a clear map, features to look out for and lists of refreshment places. Included are excellent photos, some of historic scenes and a full page on the Cotswold Canals Trust.

Price £3.95 (inc p&p) - cheques payable to "Between Two Rivers", Dept 3, 3 Ladywell, Wrington, Bristol, BS18 7LT.

FUTURE EVENTS.

- 17/18th July - Devizes Boat Rally & Canal Fest, Court Farm, Bishops Cannings swing bridge.
- 23/25th July - Boat Rally & (Saturday) Bath Canal Day, Darlington Wharf, Bath.
- 5th August - Mikron Theatre Company perform "Imogen's War" at the Canal Tavern, Bradford-on-Avon.
- 4/5th September - Bradford-on-Avon Wharf Show.
- 26th September - Canamble '93 - Cricklade to Lechlade (9 miles) via lunch at the Spotted Cow, Marston Meysey. Meet at the bridge over the River Thames, Cricklade (9.30am). £2 per adult: bus provided for return journey.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL. The Surrey & Hants Canal Society made good their eighteen year old promise to dredge 10 miles of the Basingstoke Canal on Saturday, April 17th, when the society's steam dredger 'Perseverance' reached Pondtail Bridge, Fleet.

The society bought 'Perseverance' in a condemned state 20 years ago for £225. A team of enthusiasts stripped and renovated the vessel before it could be moved to Odiham, where a length of canal had to be excavated to allow it to be launched.

Volunteer crews have operated 'Perseverance' through fine weather and foul, beaten only by extreme conditions. It has been stuck fast more than once in winter by ice up to 4" thick. The mud barges were aground for six months in 1990 during a prolonged drought. In October 1987 the dredger was hemmed in by fallen trees after the infamous hurricane during which a 60ft oak tree crashed across the boiler housing, but fortunately did little damage.

'Perseverance' has won the maritime section of the 1993 Steam Heritage Awards and the Society now plans to dry dock the dredger before deciding on its future. As the only known vessel of its type still in working order, at least one waterways museum has offered the vessel a 'permanent' home - but with a constant need for maintenance dredging on the canal, the dredger may not go into retirement yet.