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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- 7th July - 'The Last Days of Steam on British Rail' by David Meek.
(David Meek spoke to us in July 1992 on the History & Preservation of the Festiniog Railway).
- 4th August - Members Slides.
- 1st September - 'Steam Propulsion on Canals, Rivers and Coastal Waterways' by Anthony Bever.
- 6th October - 'Canal & Riverboat Magazine' by Norman Alborough.
- 3rd November - 'Our Waterways Heritage' by Frances Hart.
- 1st December - American Supper & 'A Toast for Christmas' - the production of Champagne by Martin Cripps.
- 5th January - 'K & A Canal & its 'Appeal'' by Terry Kemp.
- 2nd February - 'Grand Union Canal 1793-1993 & Modern Day Engineering Achievements' by Chris Mitchell.
- 2nd March - 'Early Inland Navigation in Hampshire' by Peter Boyce.
- 6th April - 'History of Postcards featuring Hants & the Canals' by J Silman

JUNE MEETING -AGM. A few notes from our Chairman.

Our thanks to Tim Bebbington & Les Osborn who have retired from the Committee. Thanks to Les for storing and running the Library and particularly for the help given with setting up our exhibition last August in Eastleigh Museum.

Would members please note that Society 'Stock for Sale' at 31-3-94 stood at £187-88. This was not fully shown in the accounts.

Our thanks to Clive Chance for auditing the accounts and to Hunt & Co for the valuable help and sponsorship given during the year.

We welcome Ray Brooks and Laura Sturrock to the Committee.

As I sat preaching to the converted - all 18 of them - I realised I should have been addressing the full membership. I was reminding them that Southampton Canal Society was formed as a campaign group to help in the fight for our inland waterways. As I reviewed the years attendance figures I felt that members tend to turn up for meetings that they think will suit them rather than supporting the Society as often as possible. Maybe they feel that after nearly 50 years campaigning by the IWA all is well - but is it?

How long did it take the developers to get going beside the K & A after restoration was complete?

How many small canal-side parcels of BWB land have been turned over to supermarkets?

How many restorable canal routes are in danger of being lost to major road development?

A recent Financial Times wrote "...on plans to boost BWB's income" ... "the board appeals for 'imaginative partnerships' to increase the money making potential of its most popular sites."

The new Chairman of BWB, Bernard Henderson, moved from Anglian Water where he helped with the privatisation and has said that he would do the same for British Waterways if in the interest of the customer.

Well, with all the above in mind I feel there are still a few hurdles to go. See you all at the next meeting.

Brian Evans.

LIBRARY. Tim Bebbington has begun an inventory of the Library. Sue Lewis will complete this full inventory and run the Library for the coming year. Members are asked to return any books they hold to Sue please.

CIRCULAR RAMBLES ON THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL. This booklet was reviewed in a recent edition of *Waterways World*. Having sent my £2.79p for a copy, I have received an excellent, 32 page, full colour, A5 size booklet covering 13 circular walks, all incorporating part of the canal towpath and between 2.5 and 8.5 miles in length.

I will have the booklet at the July meeting for any members present to have a look at.

The booklet is available from the Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey GU16 6DD.

RIVER ARUN SPONSORED CRUISE. After a week of mixed weather, Sunday morning looked promising. Jim and I set off on our journey to Pulborough, several dark looking clouds overhead, but the rain showers kept off.

We arrived at the launching site to be met by Alan White, the organiser of the event. Other cars were arriving with a variety of craft, canoes, inflatables and dingies, either on roof racks or trailers.

My boat is a 'Mirror' sailing dinghy, 10ft long, built of plywood from a kit in 1967. During its 27 years it has travelled far, from sailing regattas in Sweden and Holland, to holidays on Loch Ness and Cornwall. It gave me great satisfaction to think it was now being used to help raise funds for English Waterways. On this occasion the sails were left at home and power was a Seagull outboard motor.

I had anticipated rowing the 3.5 miles up river as rowing is one of my pleasures. However, with the recent rains, the strength and force of the river was both surprising and tremendous, so the outboard came into its own and proved its worth.

//////The journey up river through countryside with fields of grazing cattle and sheep, under several bridges and trees whose branches came down to river level was most enjoyable. We arrived at Pallingham footbridge just over an hour after our start to find the river level had risen to the underside of the bridge, which normally has about 3ft clearance. Several canoes and dinghies had hauled out on the river bank for a mid-day lunch break. From the directions of a canoeist we found the clump of trees and bushes which hid the entrance to Pallingham Lock. Jim and I forced the dinghy through the undergrowth, almost African Queen style, to find an almost complete lock, minus lock gates of course. It made our journey well worthwhile.

Returning to the river, we drifted down this time with the water force in our favour, arriving at the launch site to be checked in and met by Alan at his tent with a welcome cup of tea and biscuits.

So far members sponsorship has raised £42. Many thanks - both Jim and I enjoyed our day. It was like the river - tremendous.

Peter Glover.

Our thanks to Peter Glover and Jim Lanigan for representing Southampton Canal Society on this cruise. Those of you who were at the June meeting will have seen the photos of the cruise, and how Peter and Jim promoted our Society. Thanks to Peter for the report.

Any articles from members are always welcome and make my job easier - Editor.

CROFTON BEAM ENGINES. There will be a steaming weekend at Crofton Pumping Station on the Kennet & Avon Canal, from 10.30am to 5.00pm on the 30-31 July, when the two restored beam engines can be seen 'in steam'.

Admission:- adults £2.50, children £1.00, concessions and family rates.

Enquiries to:- Crofton Branch K&ACT, Ray Knowles, New Woodlands Cottage, Stanton St Bernard, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 4LP. Tel: 0672 851693

