



# Newsletter

July 1999

Issue 333

## WATERWAYS HONOUR

Members of the Southampton Canal Society, and many others interested in the waterways, will be pleased by the honour of an OBE accorded to recently retired National Chairman of the Association, Mrs Audrey Smith. The announcement of the appointment was made as part of the annual Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Audrey Smith was National Chairman of the IWA from 1994 to 1998, following a term as Chairman of IWA's North West Region. She has also served in a variety of other roles within the Association since joining nearly 30 years ago.

Current IWA National Chairman, Mr Richard Drake, said, "It is an honour well deserved. Audrey Smith has served this Association with skill and determination. Her period of Chairmanship saw an increase of the Association's influence and standing and I am sure it will be looked back upon as part of a Golden Era for the IWA."

Richard Drake added, "I would like to think that the honour reflects well, not only on the fine work that Audrey

has undertaken for the Association over the years, but also on her many continuing endeavours for the waterways and all for which the Association stands. Indeed, although Audrey stood down as IWA's National Chairman, she continues to serve the inland waterways. She is active within the IWA in her home Region and represents the IWA on a number of canal restoration Trusts, and she is a member of the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council."

He went on, "The IWA has been served by many eminent figures over the years, whose worthiness for honour was recognised within the waterway movement. It is perhaps a reflection of the greater esteem in which canal and river navigations are now held by Government, that Audrey's contribution is recognised more widely. Her hard work and skilful lobbying in all the right places contributed in no small measure to the change of attitude and we are absolutely delighted at the honour which she is now receiving."

*IWA Press Release 14/06/99*

### ROMSEY WALK

A reminder that an informal walk is to be held on Sunday 11th July and will take in the stretch of the Andover Canal (usually known as the Romsey Canal) which runs for about 1½ miles on the north side of Romsey.

We will start the morning by having a look over the preserved Romsey Signal Box which was rescued by enthusiasts when it became redundant a number of years ago. It has been fully restored to working condition on a site only a few yards from its original position and also next to the canal.

Once we've finished there, we'll walk north along the former towpath towards Timsbury. Near the north end of this stretch of canal, lies the Duke's Head public house. By the time we get there, it should be open for those who would like a drink and / or a snack. Walkers will be free to make their way back to the start point in their own time.

We will be meeting outside the Plaza Theatre in Winchester Road, Romsey (NG Reference SU358213) at 10.30am. Car parking is available nearby. Hope to see lots of you there!!

### OTHER ROMSEY EVENTS

A number of other events are taking place in Romsey on the same day as our walk as part of the Romsey Arts Festival which runs from 10 to 25 July. Those coming on the walk, or even those who are not (how dare you?), might wish to spend the afternoon in the same area. Two of the events taking place on the same day are:

**Romsey La Ronde 1999** - 14 private gardens in the centre of Romsey will be open to the public on Sunday 11th July 2.00 - 5.30pm. Tickets (with list and map) available on the day, from 2.00pm, at:

King John's Garden      Wensum House, 18 Southampton Road  
84 Greatbridge Road      Burnt Mill House, Mill Lane

Tickets £2.50, accompanying children under 14 free. No dogs except guide dogs. Teas served. Proceeds to the Romsey Hospital Appeal. For further details please telephone 01794 523135 or 01794 513981.

**Romsey Quilters Exhibition, Romsey Abbey** - An exhibition of quilts entitled 'Back to the Future' will be on display from 12 noon to 5.00pm in the Abbey; a setting that shows these colourful items off to very good effect. Also in nearby King John's House. Entrance to Abbey: Free, King John's House 75p. (This exhibition is open daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm during whole Festival fortnight).

Further details of these and other events during the festival fortnight, contact Tourist Information on 01794 523135.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

**SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY**

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

**Chairman:**

Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8FN. Tel: 01794 517115

**Secretary:**

Vacant

**Treasurer & Membership:**

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614

**Committee:**

Tony Coles  
Martin Cripps  
Paul Herbert  
Peter Oates  
David Townley-Jones

**Newsletter Editor:**

Peter Oates, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel: 01794 517614

**MEETINGS**

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

**FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS**

- 1st July** Talk by Neil Kearns of the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society
- 11th July** Walk along Romsey Canal and visit to Romsey Signal Box. (See article on page 1)
- 5th August** Ray Brooks will be Demonstrating Canal Crafts
- 2nd Sept** The Chesterfield Canal with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates
- 7th Oct** A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association
- 22nd Nov** Annual Waterways Quiz organised by last year's winners, IWA Guildford & Reading Branch at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking

**June Meeting**

The June meeting was the occasion of the Society's Annual General Meeting. Minutes of the meeting are not yet available to your editor, but as usual with such meetings, reports were presented by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. These detailed various items such as events of the past year and the financial position of the Society. Thanks were given to all those who had helped the Society to function.

It was decided, on the recommendation of the committee, that annual subscriptions should remain unchanged for a further year.

The post of Secretary, vacated by Eric Lewis, remains unfilled but one "new" face, Tony Coles, has rejoined the committee after an absence of a few years. The other officers and committee members were re-elected without opposition. It was agreed that, for the time being at least, the Secretary's duties would be divided between members of the committee.

After the tea break, members were entertained with a waterways video.

**WATERWAYS QUIZ**

In December last, the IWA Guildford and Reading Branch won the annual waterways quiz that had been held for the last few years at St John Ambulance Hall, Southampton. As winners, they are responsible for organising this year's quiz. They have decided to hold this on Monday 22nd November at their usual meeting place of Byfleet Boat Club, Woking, Surrey. We intend to accept the invitation to take part so that the trophy can make its way back "down south".

To achieve this we require some volunteers to answer the questions. Whilst your editor is willing to participate, he will need three people to fill the other team places and complete those questions he doesn't know the answers to. (Despite rumours to the contrary, he doesn't know everything there is to know about the waterways.) Questions are usually set to the team as a whole, so volunteers should NOT feel they will be exposed to ridicule, etc.

It is proposed that one or more cars will be organised so that the team and, hopefully, lots of supporters can share transport costs.

The honour of the Society is at stake. So please consider taking part or at least coming along as a supporter. These quizzes are always interesting and entertaining. Further details / offers to Peter Oates.

**Society Web-site**

Our web-site has attracted over 50 visits in less than two months. Indeed, one visitor was so impressed that he just had to join the Society straight away. (Welcome to Andy Screen of the Towpath Action Group.) Those who have access to the Internet, have a look at our site for themselves at:

[www.sturrock-oates.demon.co.uk/scs/scs.htm](http://www.sturrock-oates.demon.co.uk/scs/scs.htm)

If you have any comments or ideas for improvement then feel free to contact me, Peter Oates, either by email ([peter@sturrock-oates.demon.co.uk](mailto:peter@sturrock-oates.demon.co.uk)) or by more conventional means (address etc on the left).

**Subscriptions**

This is just a reminder to members that subscriptions to the Society for the year 1999-2000 became due at the AGM last month. Please also note that the rates were not increased at that meeting so subscriptions remain at: Single £6.00 and £9.00 for the Family rate. By any reckoning, that's still a bargain for 12 meetings, newsletters etc!

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## Proposed Society Trip for the Millennium

At last month's AGM the possibility was raised of a Society outing being organised next year. The Committee has discussed this and some outline possibilities will be put together for further consideration. Current thinking is for a boat trip next spring or early summer on one of the 'local' waterways eg: Basingstoke Canal, Kennet & Avon Canal, River Wey Navigation etc.

When more information is to hand, including likely dates and costings etc, details will be published in a future newsletter.

## 30th Anniversary Sweatshirts

The Sales Stand's stock of the special sweatshirts produced to celebrate the Society's 30th Anniversary in 1997 is almost exhausted. However, the occasional enquiry is still received for one of these attractive sweatshirts so it has been decided to place one last and final order. Just to remind you, the shirts are light grey with a multi-coloured Society logo and the legend 30th Anniversary, 1967 & 1997, on the breast. The order to be placed will have to be based upon actual orders made by Society members through the Sales Stand or by contacting Paul Herbert on 01703 262365. So ... if you haven't got one of these sweatshirts or if you need a spare, contact Paul without delay.

## Millennium Sweatshirts???

At its last meeting, the Committee discussed whether members might be interested in the Society producing a special sweatshirt to celebrate the Millennium. No colour or logo design has been considered at this stage. If there is sufficient interest we can examine options and costs.

Are you interested in this idea and would you be willing to purchase a special (limited edition) Society souvenir? If so, please let Paul or Ray on the Sales Stand know, or ring Paul on the above number.



## New GEOProjects Maps

Details have been received from GEOProjects of the following three new maps about to be published as part of their Inland Waterways of Britain series:-

- ◆ Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal  
*with the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal*
- ◆ Trent and Mersey Canal - Map 1  
*Preston Brook to Fradley Junction*
- ◆ Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Trent - Map 2  
*Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock*

All three maps are in full colour and will retail at £3.75 each.

For those avid collectors of canal maps, please place your orders for these new GEOProjects items at the Sales Stand - or ring Paul on 01703 262365

## New Society Leaflet

A new leaflet promoting the Southampton Canal Society has just been published and copies are available from Laura Sturrock or the Sales Stand. This attractive leaflet contains details of our programme to the end of the year, a map showing the location of the St John Ambulance Hall and includes two illustrations by our artistic Chairman, Brian Evans.

## CANAL SOCIETY SALES STAND

### GEOProjects Maps

Inland Waterways of Britain .....	£4.75
Basingstoke Canal .....	£3.00
Birmingham Canal Navigations .....	£3.75
The Broads	£3.75
Caledonian Canal & the Great Glen .....	£3.75
Coventry & Ashby Canals .....	£3.75
Grand Union Canal (each) .....	£3.75
Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford	
Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley	
Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames	
Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash	
Kennet & Avon Canal .....	£3.75
Llangollen and Montgomery Canals .....	£3.75
London - City and Docklands Atlas .....	£3.75
Oxford Canal .....	£3.75
Shropshire Union Canal .....	£3.75
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal <i>with the River Severn and the Gloucester &amp; Sharpness Canal</i> .....	£3.75
The Thames Map .....	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction .....	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal and River Trent - Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock .....	£3.75

**Ball Point Pens** – Embossed ..... 50p

**Burgees** – Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo on each side ..... £8.00

**Decorated Mugs** ..... £2.25

**Notelets** – with drawings of canal and Romsey scenes ..... £1.00  
(by Brian Evans)

**Shopper Bags** – Cotton with screen-printed Society logo each side ..... £2.25

**Society Members Badges** – Enamel ..... 75p

**Sweat Shirts** – 30th Anniversary in Light Grey ..... £16.00  
with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

**Sweat Shirts** – Standard in Navy or Royal Blue ..... £15.00  
with Society logo embroidered on breast

**Tea Towels** – Various colourful designs ..... £2.50 & £3.25

**Tea Shirts** – Screen printed with Society logo across chest ..... £6.50  
in Navy Blue - medium, large & extra large; in Red - medium

Visit the Sales Stand at Society meetings and place your orders with Paul Herbert or Ray Brooks - or ring Paul on 01703 262365

## WATERWAYS DIARY 1999

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton during this year. Hopefully you can find something to interest you. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

**Thu 01/07/99** 7.45pm *Southampton Canal Society* - Talk by Neil Kearns of the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society.

**Sun 11/07/99** 10.30am *Southampton Canal Society* - Walk along the Romsey Canal. Includes visit to the preserved Romsey Signal Box. Meet outside Plaza Theatre, Winchester Road, Romsey. Contact Brian Evans on 01794 517115

**Fri 16/07/99.** *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Chichester Channel Cruise: Itchenor - Fishbourne. An easy paced flotilla cruise in search of a pub lunch and a lost quay in Chichester Harbour's most attractive arm. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

**Sun 18/07/99** 8.00pm *Mikron Theatre / Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society* - "Just in Time" - Show about water transport. Venue: Fox & Hounds, Crookham Road, Fleet.

**Thu 29/07/99** 9.30am *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Guided Walk along Deepcut Flight with ranger Peter Munt. £1 per person. Meet Deepcut Bridge, Frimley. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

**Tue 03/08/99** 2.00pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - The Lockmaking Experience Walk & Talk with rangers Andy Loader and Tim Down. £1 per person. Meet at Deepcut Bridge, Frimley. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

**Thu 05/08/99** *Southampton Canal Society* Ray Brooks will be Demonstrating Canal Crafts.

**Sat 14/08/99** 11.30am - 1.30pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Dragonfly Walk with canal ranger Pete Bickford. £1 per person. Meet at Lock 15, Pirbright. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

**Sat - Sun 21/08/99 - 22/08/99** *Somerset Navigators Boat Club* - Taunton Water Festival. Contact John Tucker on 01823 490443.

**Sun 22/08/99** *Chichester Canal Society / IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - Chichester Canal Water Fair. Fun event in support of restoration of the Ship Canal. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

**Thu 26/08/99** 7.30pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Bat Slide Show followed by a bat walk along the canal. £1 per person. Meet at Canal Centre, Mytchett. Contact BCA on 01252 370073

**Fri - Mon 27/08/99 - 30/08/99** *IWA National Waterways Festival & Inland Boat Show*, Worcester. Contact Edwina Wallace on 01530 270714

**Thu 02/09/99** 7.45pm. *Southampton Canal Society*. The Chesterfield Canal with Laura Sturrock and Peter Oates.

**Sun 12/09/99.** *IWA Solent & Arun Branch* - River Hamble Cruise from Swanwick to Curbridge and Botley. Autumn cruise to a double destination using Hampshire's unique double tides. Contact Alan White on 01243 573765.

**Sat - Sun 18/09/99 - 19/09/99** *Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society* - Fox and Hounds Boat Rally, Crookham Road, Fleet. Contact Roger Cansdale on 01252 616964.

**Wed 23/09/99** 7.30pm *Basingstoke Canal Authority* - Bat walk along the canal. £1 per person. Meet at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham. Contact BCA on 01252 370073.

**Thu 07/10/99** *Southampton Canal Society* A visit by Trevor Thornton of Commercial Narrow Boat Operators Association.

**Mon 22/11/99** *IWA Guildford & Reading Branch* Annual Inter-Society Canal Quiz organised by last year's winners at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking. Details / volunteers Peter Oates on 01794 517614.

**First Wednesday in most months - IWA Dorchester Group** meets. Contact Graham Pugh on 01305 262305.

**Throughout the year - Wey & Arun Canal Trust** run cruises on n/b *Zachariah Keppel* on the restored canal. Information from John Lisk on 01493 752403.

**Throughout the year - Chichester Canal Society** run cruises on n/b *Egremont* on Chichester Canal. Information from John Cooper on 01243 671051.

## Waste by Water

Waterways Minister Alan Meale attended the launch of a waterborne freight scheme on the River Lee Navigation on 13th May and took a trip on a specially converted commercial barge, destined to transport container packed waste to an 'Energy from Waste' plant at Edmonton.

'Waste by Water' is a partnership of local authorities, private waste management companies, BW and the Environment Agency and has now concluded satisfactory viability trials of the scheme, which could eventually remove over 45,000 dustcart loads per annum from North London's roads, by carrying the waste in 72 tonne loads by water. The 'Waste by Water' partnership will now produce a full feasibility study report based on the successful trials whilst an application for a Freight Facility Grant is to be submitted shortly.

Unfortunately for the Minister, his trip on the new open top boat coincided with a rain storm, which left him with only an umbrella for protection, whilst lesser dignitaries travelling in an older boat behind benefited from the protection of a small cabin!

## RIVER NENE

At the end of May, three narrow boat loads of timber were taken by South Midland Water Transport from Wisbech to Northampton as a trial run for possible longer term commercial carrying contracts on the River Nene.

The timber, destined for Travis Perkins Ltd who have supported the trial, would normally have arrived at Kings Lynn Docks and been taken to Northampton by road, but was instead diverted to the Port of Wisbech where Fenland District Council have a firm commitment to encourage waterborne transport and the revival of the Port.