



Chairman : Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens,
: Romsey. Tel:- 0794 517115
Treasurer & : Les Osborn.
Membership :
Secretary : Martin Cripps, 42 Delamere Road,
: Southsea. Tel:- 0705 753241

HUNT
& CO

NEWSLETTER No. 254 JUNE 1992

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 4th June - AGM + Film Night.
- 2nd July - History and Preservation of the Ffestiniog Railway by a member of the Ffestiniog Railway Society.
- 6th August - Members Slides.
- 3rd September - 'Big Digs & Little Digs' - Jon Sims.
- 1st October - Narrowboat Joinery & Wheelwrighting - Peter Brougham.
- 5th November - Film & Slides on Canal Lifts in Belgium - Hugh Mcknight.

APRIL MEETING. 'My Latest Waterways Slides' was the title given to the April meeting by Chairman Brian. These slides took us on a trip around parts of Britain and France, with a few of his older slides put in for continuity. Most of our members wouldn't have seen the newer slides, but anyone who has been to one of the many talks Brian gives to various bodies, spreading the word of the waterways as he goes, may have seen a few of them.

We started our trip at Gloucester Docks, taken during a Society outing and then moved to the Stratford Canal and views of the outside, inside and owner of one of the barrel roofed lock cottages. Heading north we left the waterways and had a look at another structure in need of some restoration, Ribblehead Viaduct on the Settle to Carlisle Railway. Views from various angles gave some idea of what a massive structure it is. Wigan Pier was the next stop. Yes, it does exist, but not as a Victorian structure devoted to amusement, but as a coal staithe. Boat trips are available and some of the old buildings have been converted into a theatre and interpretation centre.

We then crossed the Channel to Montbard where there is a lovely stone building that looks much too grand to be a water driven forge. The source of the River Seine was the next port of call, the first few yards (metres) being looked after but then it is difficult to follow. Across France we visited the inclined plane at Arzwiller then on to Strasbourg and the Rhine. After an interesting series of slides on the river and canals around Briare we returned nearer home and the Kennet and Avon canal. We saw slides of Claverton Pumping Station taken on another Society outing and then finished our journey at Hungerford.

Our thanks to Brian for showing us some interesting slides together with a story about each place or area visited.

SALES TABLE. I noticed at the April meeting (in fact I borrowed to prop up my projector) a small pile of IWA magazines - 'Waterways'. These are very concise and record most of the happenings on the waterways. If members want to improve their knowledge of recent waterways history - a few pence spent here would be well worthwhile.

25th ANNIVERSARY

How many members have realised that this is the silver jubilee of the Southampton Canal Society.

Reproduced alongside is an extract from the Southampton Evening Echo dated June 2nd 1967.

You will notice that the Chairman elected at that first meeting was Mr. B. Evans and he has continued to hold this post to the present day.

A vote of thanks must go to Brian for helping to keep the Society on the straight and narrow for the last 25 years.

Canal society is formed in Southampton

A SOCIETY dedicated - to fostering interest in canals and waterways was formed in Southampton last night.

It is the Southampton Canal Society, which met for the first time at the 22nd Millbrook Scouts' hut in Millbrook-road.

Twenty people attended the meeting and the following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. B. Evans; secretary, Mr. L. Pearce; treasurer, Mr. D. Kessler-Lynn.

The society's next meeting will be at the Millbrook Scout hut on July 6, at 8 pm.

MAY MEETING. We were honoured to welcome David Stevenson, the second National Chairman of the IWA to visit us within 3 years. He certainly gave us something to think about in his talk on 'Threats to the Waterways', listing many current problems that need to be overcome.

British Waterways chairman appears to be a tool of the Government whose sole aim seems to be maximum cost recovery.

Standards for boats using BW waterways were set with little consultation though the IWA has obtained modifications and some exemptions for old boats.

The River Derwent saga, where at first the law decided there was no right of navigation. This was overturned by 3 appeal judges, only to be reversed again by 5 Law Lords. The cost of the case has been crippling and the performance is unlikely to be repeated. Unfortunately this case has implications for several other ancient river navigations such as the Essex - Suffolk Stour, the Higher Avon etc.

The problems of poor maintenance are always with us.

Developments alongside waterways have become more numerous but one positive aspect is that BW architects are carrying out corridor studies to try and ensure that developments and the waterways are married up in the best possible manner.

The British Waterways Bill and The Transport Bill were developed without consultation, though the IWA has since been able to have some influence.

Residential boats and linear moorings are resulting in slow navigation for passing boats. Should all mooring be 'off line' and should marina developments be restricted in size?

Some waterways are not getting enough use, particularly out of season, and a 'cruise 'em or lose 'em' policy could be applied.

Conservation, a problem needing plenty of common sense. All waterways user and conservationists should get together to bring about the best solutions.

Waterways, needing restoration, that pass through areas where the authorities just don't want to know, such as the Chesterfield, are of course under threat. The Government's penny pinching of the Local Authorities has reduced their ability to pass on grants.

British Waterways has many listed structures, often around 200 years old. Where does the cash come from should any of them require major repair?

Sales of BW property are taking place. Outside of BW ownership will this property still remain complimentary to the waterways scene?

Finally the threat within ourselves.

Do we become complacent so long as we have a few miles of cruising water?

Do we develop all the contacts we can?

Do we get maximum publicity?

Do we make sure that everyone knows of the threats?

Do we make sure the Government knows your feelings?

Our thanks to David Stevenson for a very interesting evening and bringing us down to earth a little with his list of threats.

JUST HOW DO our members feel about the threats. If you feel strongly about any of the above points - air your views in 'Newsletter', or write to British Waterways or the Government.

DONATION. £100.00 has been sent to IWA Headquarters following the talk by David Stevenson, the Chairman.

CHICHESTER CANAL SPONSORED WALK. Mike Smetham and Les Osborn completed the walk. £69.50 has been sent to the Chichester Society so if you promised to sponsor them could you please settle up with Mike as soon as possible.

WEY & ARUN CANAL TRUST. Following the success of Mike Smetham on his sponsored walk for the Chichester Canal, does the Society have a volunteer for the 20th Anniversary Walk for the Wey & Arun Canal Trust - The Poddle.

This year The Poddle is a 16 mile circular walk on canal towpath and country paths based near Adversane, between Billingham and Pulborough in the heart of West Sussex on Sunday 14th June.

COACH TRIP. Sunday 14th June 1992. The Solent & Arun Branch of IWA are running a coach trip to Chatham for a 2 1/2 hour cruise on the steam powered paddle steamer 'Kingswear Castle'. Pick up points at Gosport (09.00), Cosham police station (09.30), Chichester coach station (09.50).

Cost £12.00 adults, £6.60 children, £10.40 OAPs (cruise included).

Bookings and further details from:- Mike Laishley, 14 Albert Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3DD. Tel:- 0705 325000

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IWA/WRG CHARITY BANK

The Society has heard from Michael Handford that in 1991, over £3000 was raised against a target of £2250. This means that the total collected in the last four years is over £6500.

The target for 1992 is £4000.

YOU can help raise this money by bringing to Society meetings any of the following and putting them in the tub on the tea counter. We will send them off when there is enough to save postage.

The items wanted are:-

Green Shield, Co-op, Pink and all other types of trading stamps. Texaco, Mobil, BP, Shell, Esso and any other petrol vouchers. Cigarette coupons, Aluminium can ring pulls and any denomination of used postage stamps.



BATCHWORTH CANAL CENTRE. We have recently received a copy of the Watford Observer dated 30th August 1991. There is an article in this newspaper about a new restaurant and the Batchworth Canal Centre at Rickmansworth. This story is reproduced in part below.

In 1988, the rotting remains of a narrowboat called 'Albert', which was the first boat used by the Ovaltine company and named after its founder Dr Albert Wander, lay on the banks of the Trent and Mersey canal. Chris Collins and Tim Woodbridge found her with a notice of disposal on the roof announcing that the boat would be broken up within one week. With the help of BW the boat was raised and brought back to Troy Cut near Rickmansworth.

Chris Collins painstakingly rebuilt 'Albert' using eight oak trees blown down in the storms of 1987. It was a remarkable feat for someone with no experience of narrowboat building.

'Albert' is now a restaurant and has been carefully decked out in period costume. The chairs were manufactured at about the time 'Albert' was built. The walnut tables and the cutlery are of the style of the time, while the 1920's music comes from the Ovaltine archives. At present 'Albert' is static but for parties of 12 or more the boat can be taken along the canal.

The main purpose of Batchworth Canal Centre, is however, educational. The idea of the centre is to build up a static display of historic narrowboats. In addition a Rickmansworth Waterways Trust has been established to promote the canal and its environs for recreational, leisure and educational purposes for the benefit of the area.

ROYAL PATRONAGE of the canals continues. Following in the footsteps of her mother, HRH The Princess Royal has carried out two engagements on the waterways in recent months.

The first engagement was the launch of London's only canal museum, at Battlebridge Basin, just off the Regents Canal. The museum is based in a 19th century warehouse originally used to house ice for distribution to the catering trade. It aims to give visitors a taste of London's historic canals and an insight into how the canal system influenced the development of the capital.

The second engagement was in Gloucester Docks where she commissioned a new trip boat for disabled people. The Gloucestershire Disabled Afloat Riverboats Trust has designed and built the 65 foot long riverboat to provide residential activity on the River Severn for over 600 handicapped people each year.

RALLY ON BASINGSTOKE CANAL. 4th - 5th July at Lock 1, Woodham near Woking. A 2 day event at Heathervale Recreation Ground near the canal junction with the River Wey Navigation. All the fun of the fair plus boat events.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1st APRIL 1992



<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1992</u> £	<u>1991</u> £
Subscriptions	240.00	281.00
Sales	249.80	15.00
Refreshments	50.80	48.30
Draws	169.81	168.40
Sundry	-	2.83
Outings	-	487.75
Donations	6.00	1.00
Library	7.00	-
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	£723.41	£1004.28
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EXPENDITURE

Hire of Meeting Room	150.00	150.00
Lecture Fees and Costs	34.66	25.00
Donations and Subscriptions	196.00	293.00
Newsletter Printing	-	25.60
Newsletter Postage	-	48.04
Stationery	2.02	5.00
Outings	-	447.50
Bank Charges	45.36	-
Library	2.55	-
Goods for Resale	132.19	-
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	£562.78	£994.14
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SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	160.63	10.14
Balance brought forward	572.73	553.37
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Deposit Account Interest	733.36	563.51
	17.43	9.22
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	£750.79	£572.73
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BALANCE SHEET as at 1st APRIL 1992

ASSETS

Stock	19.53	-
Deposit Account	336.89	319.46
Current Account	327.70	231.49
Cash in Hand	66.67	21.78
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	£750.79	£572.73
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Represented by:-

Accumulated Surplus of Income over Expenditure	£750.79	£572.73
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