




Chairman : Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, 
: Romsey. Tel:- 0794 517115
Treasurer : Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft,
& Membership : Calmore. Tel:- 0703 860384
Secretary : Martin Cripps, 42 Delamere Road,
: Southsea. Tel:- 0705 753241

NEWSLETTER No. 277 JUNE 1994

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- 2nd June - AGM and film night.
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.
-

MAY MEETING. Sue & Eric Lewis really found out-of-the-way 'Canal Dead Ends' for their slide show, some of which many members had probably never even heard of. The Dead Ends visited were Aylesbury, Coventry, the upper navigable limit of the River Weaver, the Grosvenor Canal (off the Thames in London) and the Ulverston Canal (to the north of Morecambe Bay).

This was followed by slides featuring the Nivernais Canal by Brian Evans.

ARUN SPONSORED CRUISE. By now Peter Glover & Jim Lanigan will have taken part in the Arun cruise. Please sponsor them generously.

AFTER JON SIMS spoke to us at the April meeting he generously donated a copy of Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group Journal No 2. Items covered in this issue are Twyford Pumping Station, Southampton & Salisbury Canal, The Circus Comes to Town, Cast or Wrought?, Gunners Bank and Canal Restoration in Scotland. If any member would like to borrow the Journal please contact the Chairman.

NOTES FROM IWA COUNCIL NEWS - MAY 1994.

1) The 1995 National Waterways Festival will be held at Chester on the Shropshire Union Canal. The main festival site will be at the West Cheshire College which is by Blacon Avenue Bridge, No 129.

2) Last month Newsletter reported the laying of Fibre Optic Cables in ducts under canal towpaths. In 'Council News', IWA states that it has raised its concerns with BW that the disruption of the towing paths should be minimal and that the surface should be speedily reinstated. BW has assured IWA that the towing path will be restored to at least its original state; improvements will be at the decision of the BW Region Manager.

3) Also included in the 'Council News' are plans for the IWA Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1996) and a list of Canals & Rivers by IWA Region & Branch. For marketing purposes, it has been agreed that it should be 'Golden Jubilee' rather than 50th Anniversary. (A jubilee is a cause for celebration whereas an anniversary is just the passing of a certain number of years). Anyone wishing to read 'Council News' should contact the Chairman.

WATER FROM THE SUN. Midlands & South West Region is claiming the first use of solar power in BW. Panels installed at Napton Reservoir near Warwick will improve water supplies to the Grand Union Canal by powering an automatic system of valves.

The valves take excess water from the Oxford Canal so that it can later be fed from the reservoir to the Grand Union which lies at a lower level. The solar panels also power the control processor which activates the valves.

Mike Crick, regional construction engineer said "The valves used to be operated manually. It would have been very expensive to get mains power to the site so we had to look at alternatives. Hydro-electric power was one, but we decided that solar energy was the answer."

A SHORT QUIZ. Answers overleaf.

- What are or were the following:-
- 1) A Horsemarine.
 - 2) A Gongoozler.
 - 3) A Keb.
 - 4) A Ram's Head.
 - 5) Wings.

CHRISTMAS AFLOAT ON "BITTERNE". Last month we had the first instalment of Laurie and Linda's 1993 Christmas afloat on Bitterne. Here we conclude their story.

When we arrived at the bottom of the Curdworth locks on the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal to spend Christmas afloat we had taken the precaution of turning the boat round just in case a freeze up arrived. This in fact proved to be our salvation. We had intended to stay for about four days, but on awakening on the Sunday morning, the fire had gone out and the temperature was noticeably very low. On opening the back door I found to my horror that there was half an inch of ice on the canal. Rather than take the chance of being iced in for some days, we decided to let go and head back home. Linda got the stove going again during which time I got smoked out on the tiller until the smokeless fuel took over. Once away from the bank we were able to crunch our way slowly through the ice thanks to our faithful Lister Canal Star engine thumping away beneath me. In places it was touch and go and we heaved sighs of relief when we eventually tied up at the bottom of our garden again, two hours later. However, not to be outdone, we stayed aboard for our Sunday dinner before retreating back to the house and its home comforts. At least we know that the stove works, but the bow of the boat will need repainting along the water (ice) line.

Our thanks to Laurie and Linda for this report of their 1993 Christmas afloat.

AWAY WIN IN FRANCE. Eurowaterways, a consortium created by BW with private sector consultancies, has won a large contract in France. It beat bids from several French firms to study and report on the development of waterway tourism along 435 miles of canal in a region of northern France centred on Lille.

Commercial development manager Mark Lloyd, who is also chairman of Eurowaterways, said "Our success in France is a testament to our leisure and commercial development expertise on our own system." The study will involve the marketing research team and will be completed by the end of September.

OBITUARY. Gerry Burke, keeper of the Buckby Flight on the Grand Union Canal, accidentally drowned on the 17th April. A well-loved local figure, Gerry transferred from Foxton Flight 18 months ago, where he won the regional Waterway Length competition in 1992. Among the hundreds of mourners at his funeral were uniformed BW stakk whom Gerry's mother had invited to carry his coffin.

CHICHESTER CANAL SOCIETY NEWS taken from their May 1994 Newsletter.

1) Successful negotiations have taken place with the Blue Lake Coach Company with the following results: For a period of 5 years Blue Lake will make available to the Society, as a travelling advertisement, one of their buses employed on a regular City Bus route. The coach has already been repainted in fresh blue and cream livery and in addition it will be sign-written on both sides as follows:-

Above the windows: The Chichester Canal Society-Join us and save your Canal.

Below the windows: A full map of the Canal route showing places and points of interest.

Rear of Bus: The Society's name and logo plus contact telephone numbers.

Front of Bus: The Society's name.

The cost of all this to the Society is just that of the signwriting and we have already obtained sponsorship to cover most of this. I think you will agree that this will prove wonderful publicity for the Society and will go a long way in establishing us, in the area, as a force to be considered.

2) In spite of bad weather, 158 runners took part in the Cross Country Run, and this netted £576.00 in sponsorship for the Society. This money is to be spent on providing a hinged access ramp to the Tripboat.

3) The fitting out of the interior of the Tripboat is virtually completed and how pristine it looks. Bill Tutt is to be congratulated. Some party bookings for the boat have already been taken and anybody interested in making such a booking should contact Mike Codrai on 0243 670966.

QUIZ ANSWERS. 1) Men who contract for the haulage of vessels by horses.

2) An idle or inquisitive person who stands staring for long periods.

3) An iron rake used for fishing up coal or other items from the bottom of the canal.

4) The boatman's name for the wooden rudder post of a narrowboat.

5) Flat pieces of board rigged for the purpose of legging, fitted when the tunnel is too wide for the boatman to reach from the deck of the boat.