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HUNT
& Co

NEWSLETTER No. 252 MARCH 1992

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 5th March - History of Wind and Water Mills - John Silman.
- 2nd April - 'My Latest Waterways Slides' - The Chairman.
- 7th May - 'Threats to the Waterways' - David Stevenson - Chairman IWA.
- 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.

FEBRUARY MEETING. The talk by Peter Bennett of International Paints attracted a large audience to the February meeting. Some people who we had not seen for a while and some who had not been to our meetings before came along to get tips for painting and repairing the decor of their boats.

International Paints make a wide range of paints and varnishes suitable for all surfaces and it was interesting to learn how they all go through exhaustive testing before being sold to the public.

Question time was particularly useful and several boat owners were able to put their problems to Peter and generally he was able to give good advice. The firm is based locally in Southampton and should members have painting problems they were urged to telephone for information.

HELP needed. Volunteers for most types of canal restoration, tug steering, dredging etc. Also fitting out and painting the newly acquired tripping boat for the CHICHESTER CANAL.

If you can help - please phone John Cooper on 0243-671051

CHICHESTER CANAL SOCIETY AGM. Friday 13th March at 7pm, Committee Room 1, West Sussex County Council, West Street, Chichester. The AGM will be followed with a talk by Jim Payne on 'Restoration of the Chichester Canal - Progress and Plans'

SOMERSET COAL CANAL. In the last newsletter there were details of the trip to the Somerset Coal Canal being arranged by Jon Sims. There are still a few places left. The date is Saturday, 14th March and the cost is £7.00. Phone Jon on Southampton 732868 if you are interested.

CANAL CAMPS 1992 is now out. 22 Camps to choose from. To see the brochure - ask the Chairman.

DO WE HAVE a member with a small boat who we can sponsor to represent us on the River Arun cruise? Sunday 12th April - departing from Waters Edge Hotel, Pulborough at 10.00.

IF YOU THINK that Eiffel spent all his time building towers - then come to the April meeting and find out more.

TOURISM AWARD. The Kennet and Avon Canal is the winner of the 1991 Tourism for Tomorrow UK Award, which was announced at the end of January. The award is sponsored jointly by the 'Wish You Were Here' television holiday programme, British Tourist Authority and the Tour Operators' Study Group as a recognition of holiday destinations which are concerned for the environment and have done something about it.

As the UK winner, the canal joined the winners of the Continental Europe and the Rest of the World categories for the overall winner of the trophy. The overall winner was the Rest of the World category which was a project in Nepal.

FUN RUN FOR EUROPE. - Chichester Canal Society. Sunday 5th April 1992. Volunteers please to be sponsored by Southampton Canal Society - see the Chairman if you are interested.

Last year the Mayor of Chichester nominated The Chichester Canal Society as one of his two official charities. As a result over £2,500 was raised from a series of events towards the cost of buying a tripboat for use on the Canal. This has now been purchased and will be in operation in the Summer for the benefit of not only able-bodied people but also the elderly and disabled.

In 1992 the Chichester Canal Society are supporting the Chichester in Europe celebrations and are providing an event in which Fun Runners and Walkers of all ages can participate. The main course which is 8 miles (13 km) long follows the line of the Canal to the Harbour skirting the water before returning across open farmland to Donnington and then back to the Canal Basin where the Run/Walk finishes.

In response to several requests we have also organised a shorter course of about 3.5 miles (5.6 km) for unaccompanied runners under 13 years.

All proceeds from entry fees and sponsorship will be used to equip the tripboat.

GLOUCESTER EVENTS. 1992 is a double anniversary for waterways in the South West. 200 years of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and 150 years of the River Severn Navigation. To celebrate these events an open weekend will be held at Gloucester Docks over the May Day weekend, 2nd-4th May, and a Gloucester Gathering will be held on 4th-5th July.

During the May Day weekend British Waterways will be showing visitors some of the skills, craft and plant used to maintain the local waterways. The National Waterways Museum will also be presenting craft displays.

The theme of the July gathering is the traditional mix of sea going, river and canal craft at Gloucester. To attract boats of all types, British Waterways is offering a free seven day licence and moorings in Gloucester Docks for five days to any craft booked into the event.

CANAL COURSES.

11th-12th April - Boat Handling. Run by BBC Radio Oxford Narrowboat Trust on board 70ft *Venturer* from base in Oxford. Course covers boat handling and waterways etiquette.

Details from Jim Hanks. Telephone (day) 0860-414357

2nd-4th May - Devon and Cornwall-Waterways and Waggonways. A weekend tour examining transport systems in the West Country including the Tamar Valley (travel by rail and charter vessel), Morwelham Quay, Tavistock Canal, Bude Canal and Dartmoor.

Details from Kingdom Tours. Telephone 0296-433999

29th-31st May - Canal Weekend. Hosted by Owen & Iris Bryce to include lectures, videos, visit to museum at Stoke Bruerne, Braunston locks and a trip through Blisworth Tunnel.

Details from General Manager, Holiday Inns, Ashby Road, Daventry, Northants.

6th-7th June - Roses and Castles. Two day course at The Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port. Basic instruction by Philip Speight in narrowboat decoration.

Details from Annette Franks. Telephone 051-355-5017.

6th-9th July - Canal Weekend. Lectures, slides and video presentations by Iris & Owen Bryce including an outing on a horse drawn boat on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Details from the Principal, Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon.

11th-13th September - Canal Weekend. Details as 29th-31st May.

7th-8th November - Follow up Painting Course. Open only to those who have attended previous painting courses or experienced painters. Instruction by Philip Speight covering Knobstick roses, graining and scrollwork.

Details from Annette Franks. Telephone 051-355-5017.