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NEWSLETTER No. 238 NOVEMBER 1990

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 1st November - Peter Brougham - Kennet and Avon boat builder. Construction and fitting out of narrowboats. The tricks of the trade recounted with enthusiasm.
- 6th December - Christmas Festivities - with Les Osborn giving a hands on demonstration on the art of painting canal roses etc.
- 3rd January - Peter Hiron of the Crofton Society. History, Restoration and Conservation of Crofton Pumping Station on the Kennet and Avon Canal.
- 7th February - 'The Chichester Canal' by John Cooper, Chairman of the Chichester Canal Society.
- 7th March - Lister/Petter Marine. History of Marine Diesels for waterway use. Present day use, hints and tips.

OCTOBER MEETING. 'Waterway Recovery Group - The history, aims and objectives, work camps and future plans'. All of these aspects were well related in our talk by Chris Davey. How he raced along with enthusiasm to cover all the points in depth.

What a lot has happened since large mobile work parties started travelling to sites all over the canal system.

It was interesting to see the changes in clothing, safety gear, the appearance of large plant owned by WRG and to note all the successful tasks that have been completed over the years.

There were a few old work party 'soldiers' present who were pleased to see that there are capable young volunteer navvies carrying on with the task of restoring waterways which were at one time given up as lost.

A donation of £100 has been sent by the Society, via Chris Davey, to Waterway Recovery Group.

CARTOON HISTORY OF THE KENNET AND AVON CANAL. British Waterways have produced a light-hearted comic-style history of the K & A Canal for children. The canal was officially reopened by HM The Queen on 8th August 1990 and has generated much interest, particularly amongst schools, with many requests being received for information on the canal and its history.

The comic's lively text and humorous colour illustrations relate the story of the navigation from the Middle Ages, through to the canal's completion from Bath to Reading in 1810, and then abandonment in the 1950s followed by restoration and then a Royal reopening in 1990. It is aimed at children above eight years of age and young at heart adults.

Recreation Development Officer (East), Martin Brown, developed the idea and commissioned cartoonist Don Seed to do the cartoon illustrations. Teachers and pupils at Parsons Down Junior School in Thatcham provided help and comment on the first draft before the finished version went into production.

Places of interest by the canal are featured on the back cover, such as Blake's Lock Museum at Reading, Claverton waterwheel pump near Bath and various horse drawn trip boats.

The comic costs 50p and is available from Martin Brown, British Waterways, Lower Wharf, Wharf Side, Padworth, Berks, RG7 4JS or from British Waterways, Bath Road, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 1HB.

DONATIONS. Following David Laing's talk at our September meeting, a donation of £20 has been sent to the Stroudwater, Thames and Severn Canal Trust Ltd.



MEMBERS WERE AMUSED when Chris Davey told them that Waterway Recovery Group had purchased a Smalley Excavator with Green Shield Stamps!

Well now you can help. The Inland Waterways Association and WRG are still collecting stamps & tokens and converting them into useful cash and working tools.

Do you have any old used stamps or tokens that you will not be needing. Please bring them along and deposit them in the container on our tea bar. From time to time they will be sent to IWA Headquarters.

Alongside are a few of the items we want to save. The full list is:- Green Shield (old & new), Pink, Co-op and all other types of trading stamps; Texaco, Mobil, BP, Shell, Esso and all other types of petrol vouchers;

Air Miles, cigarette coupons, aluminium can ring pulls and all denominations of used postage stamps.

INLAND WATERWAYS. Illustrated talk by Brian Evans. Members may have seen some of the slides - but there are new slides as well. Thursday 8th November 1990 at 7.30pm in Romsey Abbey Church Rooms. Tickets 75p - in aid of The Children's Society



READING DISCOVERY TRAIL. The 'Reading Discovery Trail' is the second in a new series of self-guided walks along the Kennet and Avon Canal. The Trail takes walkers from the River Thames in Reading along the Kennet and Avon Canal to Burghfield, a walk of 5 1/4 miles.

//////Martin Brown said "Judging by the interest in the canal in Reading from our recent guided walks, this Reading Discovery Trail should be a welcome addition to our series of Discovery Trails."

A full colour leaflet incorporating an Ordnance Survey map guiding the walker along the 'Reading Discovery Trail' is now published. The leaflet features information on points of interest along the walk and details of places to park.

The Reading Discovery Trail leaflet was funded by British Waterways, the Countryside Commission, Reading Borough Council and Berkshire County Council. It is a companion to the 'Newbury Discovery Trail' published in July.

The leaflet is free from Blake's Lock Museum, Reading Information Centre in Reading Town Hall and from Martin Brown (see overleaf for address)



British Waterways

Alongside is the new British Waterways logo. Keep your eyes open and when you see this sign you should find information about British Waterways.

windlasses designed purposely to fit the new spindles.

LOCK GEARING SPINDLES. British Waterways conversion programme to fit new standardised spindles to all manually operated lock gearing is almost complete and boaters are urged to acquire

Most of the conversion work was accomplished over last winter and in early spring, when work stopped in order to keep inconvenience to boaters to a minimum, and the remaining work should be completed by the end of the coming winter.

Standard windlasses, produced in accordance with the specification of British Waterways' drawing RY320, can be obtained from Regional and Waterway Manager's offices at a price of £5.95 each.

Marinas, boat yards and chandleries are also stocking the standard windlass, but purchasers should satisfy themselves that any 'standard' windlass obtained from sources other than British Waterways' outlets conforms to British Waterways' specification.