



# Newsletter

September 1996

Issue 302

## IWA ANNOUNCES NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR WATERWAY SOCIETIES

**T**he IWA is to host a national conference for waterway societies on Saturday November 30th 1996. Eminent speakers will be looking at subjects of major concern to all waterway societies and trusts who are engaged either in the restoration of derelict waterways or are concerned about the care, conservation and use of navigable waterways.

The conference will be held at the prestigious Sandwell Council House in the West Midlands and whilst aimed at waterway societies and trusts, delegates will be welcomed from all spheres of the waterways world. IWA National Chairman, Audrey Smith said "There are so many important challenges facing the inland waterways at present, it is vital that we bring together waterway groups from across the country to address issues that will affect us all for many years to come. The recent report from IWAAC, the Department of Environment's Review of Navigation, the disastrous highway blockages being placed on the Derby and Thames and Severn Canals and the increasing extremism of some wildlife lobbyists are all matters that should be on everyone's agenda and

will be addressed at this conference."

Robin Higgs, Chairman of Southern Canals Association and of IWA's Restoration Committee said "This conference will be one of IWA's most important events in our Jubilee year. It is a key part of IWA's strategy to work closely with trusts and societies in bringing about the most favourable climate for waterway restoration and the maintenance of existing navigations to the highest standards. We aim to bring together waterway societies from all over the country to present a truly national picture and to provide inspiration to reinvigorate the waterway movement."

*IWA Press Release 25 July 1996*

### WILTS & BERKS CANAL

The Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group are organising two events:

**The Wilts & Berks Canal, its past, present and future.** Video and Talk. 6th September - Victoria Tavern, B4000 Lambourn Road, Shrivenham.

**Guided Walk.** 4 mile walk along the Wilts & Berks. Meet 10.00am, 15 September at Victoria Tavern, B4000 Lambourn Road, Shrivenham.

Contact: Alan or Jean Norris on 01793 783024.

### IWALK

**5 & 6 October 1996**

IWA Branches and Regions up and down the country are organising a national series of Sponsored walks over the weekend 5 & 6 October. The target is to raise at least £50,000 for the National Waterways Restoration and Development Fund to help finance the work of canal restorers everywhere.

There will be a sponsored walk along the Basingstoke Canal between Woking and Ash Vale on Sunday 6 October. This is being organised jointly by the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society and IWA Guildford & Reading Branch to raise funds towards a backpumping scheme at Woodham Locks. Whilst the canal has been restored, water shortages have forced 28 of the canal's 29 locks to be closed for prolonged periods during summer months to conserve supplies.

If you can't join the walk why not sponsor David Millett (a former SHCS chairman) who'll do the 10¼ mile walk for you. Further details can be obtained from Jonathan Wade, 30 Hanover Gardens, Cove, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 9DT; ☎ 01252 524690.

### SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY SALES STAND

Enamel Society Members Badges	75p	Notelets, with line drawings (by Brian Evans) of canal and Romsey scenes	£1.00
Embossed Ball Point Pens	50p	Screen Printed Tee Shirts	£6.50
<b>GEOprojects Maps</b>		with Society logo across chest	
Basingstoke Canal	£3.00	in Navy Blue - medium, large & extra large	
Oxford Canal	£3.75	in Red - medium	
Kennet & Avon Canal	£3.75	Embroidered Sweat Shirts	£15.00
Grand Union Canal (each)	£3.75	with Society logo on breast	
Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford		in Navy Blue - large	
Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley		in Royal Blue - medium and large	
Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames		Cotton Shopper Bags	£2.25
Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash		with screen-printed Society logo each side	
The Thames Map	£3.75	Colourful Tea Towels	£2.50
London - City and Docklands Atlas	£3.75	Decorated Mugs	£2.25
The Broads	£3.75	Decorated Trays (two sizes)	£1.00 & £2.95
Birmingham Canal Navigations	£3.75		
Waterway Jigsaws (192 pieces 10" x 13¾")	£3.50		

**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:**

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Hampshire, SO40 2SS. Tel: 01703 860384

**Treasurer & Membership:**

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

**Committee:**

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 EVENTS****5th September 1996**

In Cressy's Wake by Tony Conder, curator of the National Waterways Museum, Gloucester Docks

**3rd October 1996**

The Cotswold Canals Trust  
Bruce Hall, Chairman of the Trust

**7th November 1996**

Programme of Waterways Films,  
Ordnance Survey Cine Club

**5th December 1996**

Annual Inter-Society Quiz and  
American Supper

**6th March 1997**

Talk by Mrs Audrey Smith  
IWA Chairman

**3rd April 1997**

BW Customer Relations  
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**Far and Wide**

**A**ugust's meeting is traditionally poorly attended as the holiday season gets into full swing. This year's member's slides meeting saw more people than last year and many more slides from far and wide. Indeed, not all the slides could be fitted into the time available.

Chris Beahan kicked off the meeting with a good series of pictures taken on his holiday on the Stourport ring only the previous week.

These were followed by slides taken in 1975 in Italy. Presented by Charles Lewis, we saw, amongst other things, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Coliseum in Rome and the canals of Venice.

The first half was rounded off by Paul Herbert's pictures of Foxton in the early 1970's "before we got interested in canals". He followed these with shots of the Basingstoke Canal in the mid 70's including a couple of attractive snow scenes.

After the break the next slides were presented by Eric Mayhew, taking us north of the border to the Caledonian and Crinan Canals - waterways which often get forgotten.

A wide variety of places from yesteryear were shown by David Townley-Jones. Starting with his service on Cunard's *Carmania*, we saw the West Indies and the Panama Canal. These were followed by shots afloat in Holland and on the Thames. He rounded off with Sir Alec Rose's return to Southsea from his round the world trip.

The Chairman wasn't even in the country, but we couldn't get away from some of his slides (only kidding, Brian). These featured our Jubilee Event on the Romsey Canal and the recent trip to the Braunston Boat Show.

Added to all these slides was five minutes video of the assembly of the Jubilee Jigsaw in Birmingham in June shot by Frank Stokes.

Thanks to all those who brought slides along and also to Sue Lewis for her valiant efforts with the slide projector. A most entertaining evening. Come to next year's meeting and see the world!

**Southampton Boat Show**

**T**he coming month sees the annual Southampton Boat Show being staged in Mayflower Park again. The Boat Show this year will open to the public from Saturday 14th until Sunday 22nd September 1995 between the hours of 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Your editor is organiser yet again for the IWA's stand at the Show. I have already contacted those helpers from the last few years but, through the Newsletter, I am asking you to consider giving your help on the stand. It is only with the help of volunteers that it is possible for the IWA to fly the inland waterways flag at this predominantly maritime Boat Show. If you feel able to chat to people about the waterways, maybe answer some of their questions (the majority of these are very simple) or just sell books and other items, this might be the job for you.

You don't have to volunteer to be on the stand for a whole day, but to give a few hours in the morning or afternoon: say from about 11.00am to 1.00pm or from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. It is usual for business to be very slack outside these hours. If for any reason, you would like to work different hours then I am sure that this might be arranged.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to help with some idea of the days/times you might like to work. I can't guarantee that I will be able to use everyone who volunteers but I will certainly be glad to hear from you.

Even if you don't volunteer, we'd love to see you when you visit the show.

*Peter Oates*

**Fun Quiz Evening**

This will be held by IWA Salisbury Group on 19 September at 7.30pm with quizmaster Eric Lewis. Venue: Salisbury Rugby Clubrooms, Castle Road, Salisbury. Details from Tony Fry ☎ 01722 710192.

**Canal Society Library**

Our librarian, Sue Lewis, is waiting for your visit at any meeting to borrow any of the many interesting books on the waterways and related subjects.