

# Newsletter

September 1997

Issue 313

## B W T O G O T O T H E D O G S

After months of talks, BW has agreed terms with the London Docklands Development Corporation to take over four docks in the Isle of Dogs - West India, Millwall, Poplar and Blackwall. The transfer of ownership should take place on 25 September. It will involve 100 acres of waterspace and 21 acres of dockside land.

With the successful redevelopment of several dock areas including Limehouse Basin nearby, BW feel they were an obvious choice to manage these docks. In July, the transfer had been agreed in principle and were finalising the documentation. The basis of the deal is that the net cost of running the docks is met by a 'dowry' to BW of assets and cash.

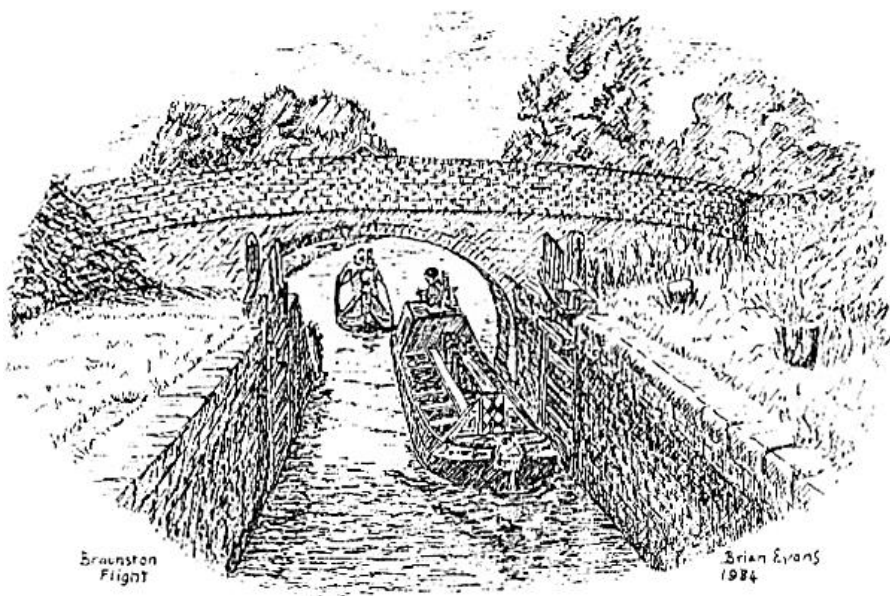
The docks will be a distinct business unit within BW. The

aim will be to increase activity and financial opportunities for the docks so that they do better than break even. They will be looking at introducing a cruise ship terminal, leisure moorings, brokerage and even new freight business.

Other LDDC property on the Isle of Dogs, like public open spaces, will go to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. BW is setting up a Docks Management Advisory Group with the council to make sure that the views of local people and businesses are heard in the way the docks are developed.

LDDC, which was formed in 1981 to regenerate 8½ square miles of London's former commercial docks, will be wound up next March.

*BW Monthly July 1997*



### Water Situation

In July, restrictions were lifted on many Grand Union locks as a result of rainfall over the previous two months and completion of the water transfer scheme.

Rainfall in June was in fact the highest June figure this century. As a result, reservoir holdings showed an increase when there would normally be falling levels. Although July rainfall was only 78% of the long-term average for the month, it was better than either 1995 (65%) and 1996 (68%). The water resources outlook is now optimistic with reservoir levels in most areas above those recorded in the past two years. Levels at 11 August, as a percentage of capacity, were:

Crinan Canal	34%
Leeds & Liverpool Canal	77%
Macclesfield group	79%
Caldon group	67%
Birmingham Canal Navigations	80%
Braunston summit	70%
Leicester Line	55%
South Oxford Canal	49%
Tring summit	72%

*BW Monthly July & August 1997*

### Southampton Boat Show

The Southampton Boat Show is to be held again this month, running from Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st September. It will be held in the Mayflower Park area between the hours of 10.00am and 7.00pm.

The IWA will again have a stand at the show, although it will be in a different place from the traditional one. For over twenty years, the IWA stand has been in the Ocean Hall (or its predecessor), but this year it will be in the Windward Hall, the other main marquee in Mayflower Park.

As usual, a range of waterways books, maps and magazines will be stocked, including the IWA Christmas cards. If you're in the show do come and see us.

**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

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**MEETINGS**

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

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****4th September 1997**

Ownerships - shared ownership of narrow boats with Alan Mathews

**20th September 1997**

SCS / IWA Small Boat Cruise and Barbecue

**2nd October 1997**

Bristol to Sharpness  
Talk with video - Alan Padwick

**6th November 1997**

Bugsworth Basin and the IWPS  
Ian Edgar

**4th December 1997**

Annual Inter-Society Quiz  
and American Supper

**Canal Society Library**

Don't forget the Society Library is open at our meetings to lend any of the many interesting and often unusual books on the waterways.

**August Meeting**

**A**s usual Members' Night was full of variety and interest. The programme began with slides by Eric Lewis taken at The Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port; The Black Country Museum and Gloucester Docks.

Brian Evans followed with pictures of shop windows in Briare, colourfully painted in celebration of the centenary of Eiffel's aqueduct over the River Loire. Also slides of the Jubilee Jigsaw on the River Itchen and a few of the Andover - Redbridge Canal in Romsey were shown.

After the tea break, Ray Brooks ran his video recording of the launching and trial run of *Escargot*, the pedal powered boat that members of Waterway Recovery Group have navigated from last year's National Festival site at Windmill End, Dudley to this year's Festival at Henley.

Frank Stokes completed the show with slides taken while on holiday of the Rochdale Canal, Calder & Hebble and Aire & Calder Navigations.

**Surrey men in first Channel crossing by solar power**

*Brian Evans has sent me the following article from the August 8 issue of the Surrey Advertiser under the catchy headline above.*

The first solar-powered crossing of the English Channel has been completed in just over six hours by two Surrey men.

The *SB Collinda*, an electric boat crewed by Malcolm Moss from Leatherhead and Wyndham Halswell from Wanborough was built to show the environmental benefits and feasibility of solar-powered vessels.

the weather conditions were not good, the crew did not have to use the battery back-up at any point in the crossing, and reached an average speed of 3.4 knots per hour [sic].

Malcolm Moss feels that the journey was a complete success. He said: "The day showed that even in sultry conditions solar panels work and are a viable way of operating electric boats, either directly or for charging their batteries.

Electric boats were popular in Victorian times, but were replaced by the internal combustion engine.

Already lakes on the continent and in India are insisting on zero emissions, which means either electric, sail or self-propelled vessels, and it is hoped that UK waterways will soon follow their example.

**Admission / Omission Time**

I'm afraid I have to make a confession. A member approached me a couple of months ago and asked me to put an advert in the Newsletter and I agreed.

However, I have to confess that, despite lengthy searches, I have mislaid his advert and, to cap it all, I have forgotten his name. My sincerest apologies to the gentleman concerned.

If he still wants me to run the advert, would he please contact me. I'm sorry but I can't get to the September

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# CANAL SOCIETY BARBECUE

As detailed last month, the Society is organising another barbecue this year on 20th September 1997. The venue this year is Bursledon Brickworks, off Swanwick Lane, Swanwick.

Our barbecue is being organised in conjunction with the IWA Solent & Arun Branch who will be holding a Small Boat Cruise up the River Hamble from the public hard at Swanwick Shore up to Botley Parish Quay. A Commemorative Cargo, which will include various items of local produce, is also to be delivered to Botley Quay by water. Parts of the cargo (including commemorative mugs) will be available for purchase after the event; details from Peter Boyce. Entry forms for the cruise also available from Peter whose address is given in the article below.

The brickworks will be specially open to those taking part in these events from 10.00 to 14.00. Guided tours of the brickworks will also be laid on.

Tickets for the barbecue will cost £4.00 with admission for under 5's free. These may be obtained from Eric Lewis

(address on page 2). Please make cheques / postal orders payable to Southampton Canal Society.

Timetable for Cruise and Barbecue:

09.30 - 10.30	Launching at Swanwick Hard Load cargo
10.00 - 14.00	Brickworks open to non-boating participants
10.30 - 12.30	Guided tours of Bursledon Brickworks
10.30 - 11.00	Boats proceed to Eastlands Boatyard
11.00 - 11.15	Boaters walk up to brickworks
12.00 - 13.00	SCS Barbecue Lunch at Brickworks
12.45 - 13.00	Boaters walk back to boats
13.00 - 14.00	Boats proceed to Botley Parish Quay
14.00 - 16.00	Meet Botley and Curdridge Local History Society members Unload cargo Visit Botley Mill Refreshments and Events at the Quay
16.00 - 17.30	Return to Swanwick
17.30 - 18.30	Recover boats

## IWA Solent & Arun Branch Events

The S&A Branch are advertising the following events in the area (in addition to our own):

**7 September (Sun)** - Chichester Canal Cream Tea Walk - Guided towpath walk from Birdham to Cream Tea. Last opportunity this year. Contact: Linda Wilkinson 01243 537500.

**20 September (Sat)** - Hamble Small Boat Cruise - Autumn cruise including visit Bursledon Brickworks and Botley Village Quay. Easy launching at public slipway at Swanwick. Contact: Alan White 01243 573765. Also SCS barbecue at Bursledon Brickworks. (See above)

**19 October (Sun)** - River Rother Guided Walk, Stopham to Shopham. Guided walk, donation please.

Except as noted above, further details may be obtained from: Peter Boyce, Greensleeves Cottage, Hambledon Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 6PW.

Tel (home) 01705 269642, (office and answer machine) 01730 829016, (work) 01705 693611 ext 1364. E-mail: [iwa.solent.arun@dial.pipex.com](mailto:iwa.solent.arun@dial.pipex.com)

## IWA Salisbury Group

The group is holding the following meeting at the Salisbury Rugby Clubrooms, Castle Road Salisbury commencing at 7.30pm. For further details, contact Tony Fry on 01722 710192.

**Sunday 14/21 September** - A boat trip on the River Wey near Guildford (rather a long trip?).

## 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	30th Anniversary Embroidered Sweat Shirts	£16.00
Grand Union Canal (each)	£3.75	in light grey with multi-coloured Society logo on breast	
Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford		Embroidered Sweat Shirts (Standard)	£15.00
Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley		with Society logo on breast in Navy or Royal Blue	
Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames		Burgees	£8.00
Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash		Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo each side	
The Thames Map	£3.75	Cotton Shopper Bags	£2.25
London - City and Docklands Atlas	£3.75	with screen-printed Society logo each side	
The Broads	£3.75	Colourful Tea Towels	£2.50 & £3.25
Birmingham Canal Navigations	£3.75	Decorated Mugs	£2.25
Shropshire Union Canal	£3.75		
Llangollen and Montgomery Canals	£3.75		