

WINDLASS

Winter

Number 165

'WHAT DO YOU DO ON WINTER EVENINGS?' —asks Region Chairman, Dave Moore

What do you do during winter evenings when you have read your "Waterways" and "Windlass"? You could of course buy a copy of the Inbucon Report and read that. It's interesting, even if it does repeat many of the things we have been saying, especially about BWB needing a commitment to long term funding if they are to reduce the maintenance backlog. Alternatively you could read some of the recent reports on inland shipping (see December "Waterways") and see another of our statements confirmed: that the tonnage carried and the number of vessels employed are far greater than the official statistics have shown. But these activities keep one indoors. Why not consider attending your local Branch meeting—a lot of work goes into organising these and they do deserve more support.

The season of Branch AGM's is fast approaching and I expect many committees would welcome new faces to share the workload. This is particularly true now with Waterways Fortnight imminent. This is potentially the biggest event the IWA has ever staged and we owe it to ourselves to make it a success. All sorts of activities are planned, designed to raise money, attract publicity or recruit members. I am sure more events could be staged if the Branch committee could count on more help—from YOU.

NOTICE OF REGION AND BRANCH AGMs

Notice is hereby given that the AGMs of South East Region and Branches will be held as indicated below:

Region/Branch	Date	Time	Venue
Region	Fri 6 May	7.30pm	Bridge House Hotel, Delamere Terrace, Paddington
Guildford & Reading	Mon 21 March	7.30pm	Leapale Lane, Guildford (opposite bus station)
Hertfordshire	Tue 15 February	8.00pm	Hatfield C.C., Ascots Lane, nr. Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Welwyn Garden City
Kent & East Sussex	Sat 26 March	8.00pm	Whealers Arms, Maidstone
London	Thu 17 March	7.30pm	University College, Gower Street, London WC1
Oxford & Bucks	Wed 9 March	7.30pm	Oasis Bar, Morris Radiators Sports & Social Club, Frenchay Road, Oxford
Solent & Arun	Fri 18 March	7.30pm	Fernleigh Centre, Chichester

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts
7. Adoption of Accounts
8. Elections of Committee Members
9. Election of Hon. Auditor
10. Any Other Business

Note: Nominations for committees should be in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder and the nominee. Nominations **must** be received by the Region or Branch Secretary as appropriate not less than 14 days before the Region or Branch AGM.



Inland Waterways Association

South East Region

Patrons: Dame Margot Fonteyn and Sir John Betjeman
Region President: Lionel Munk
Chairman: David Moore, 12 Rectory Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex Tel: Stanford-le-Hope 677729
Secretary: Mike Stimpson, 109a High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. Tel: 0923-7-70425
Treasurer: Brian Freshney, 68 Lansdowne Road, Stanmore Middlesex HA7 2SA Tel: 01-954 4580
SE Region Inland Shipping Committee Chairman: Alan Brown, Wellesley, Station Approach, Chorley Wood, Herts WD3 5NE. Tel: 01-260 3516

Windlass Editor: Frank Greenhow, 204 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2AS

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Secretary: David Johnson, 12 Queen's Road, Chelmsford CM2 6HA
Tel: Chelmsford 353637

Guildford and Reading

Chairman: Geoff Bailey, 40 Hazell Road, Farnham, Surrey Tel: Farnham 724811
Secretary: Brian Percy, 21 New Road, Marlow Bottom, Bucks Tel: Marlow 4575

Hertfordshire

Chairman: Ian Thonger, 3 Pendennis Court, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1SG
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Tel: Potters Bar 53293

Kent and East Sussex

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Secretary: John Morgan, 49 Hillbrow Road, Ashford, Kent Tel: Ashford 27594

London

Chairman: A. Farrand Radley, 157 Holland Park Ave, London W11 4UX Tel: 01-603 6062
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Oxford and Bucks

Chairman: Morvyn Phillips, 3 Tatlings Road, Steventon, Oxford Tel: Abingdon 831369
Secretary: Mrs. Pam Pugh, 10 Vanner Road, Witney, Oxon Tel: Witney 71138

Solent and Arun

Chairman: A C White, Wheel House, Pottery Lane, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex Tel: Bosham 573765

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Classified advertisements continue to be accepted. All such advertisements must be prepaid, (cheques payable to 'IWA', please) and copy must reach the Editor at 204 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2AS, not later than the published copy date for the appropriate issue. **Rate:** First 15 words £1.50, thereafter 8p per word.

Deadlines for the next four issues:

Issue No.	Copy Deadline	Distribution Date
166	1 April	29 April
167	1 July	29 July
168	30 Sept	28 Oct
169	6 Jan, 1984	3 Feb, 1984

Copy which is not received by the deadlines given will **not** be included. **You have been warned!**

Restoring the Basingstoke Canal

Peter Cooper—*SHCS 'Windlass' correspondent*

Restoration of the Basingstoke Canal has been under way, officially, since 1973, and unofficially since some while before that. The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society began campaigning for the canal's restoration to fully navigable condition in 1966, and when, largely as a result of their efforts, Hampshire County Council took possession of their half of the canal in 1973, official restoration could start.

In the early days a lot of the restoration in Hampshire was towpath clearance, but from 1975 dredging has been underway, mostly by volunteers, and mostly using the steam dredger 'Perseverance'. Sufficient dredging has been done for the Society's trip boat 'John Pinkerton' to operate on the Odiham-Dogmersfield section of the canal, bringing in valuable funds for further restoration.

In Surrey the biggest restoration job concerns the 28 locks in the county's half of the canal. Volunteers have been tackling this work since 1975, and from 1977 until today the SHCS has been employing full-time workers, under Manpower Services Commission grants, on lock rebuilding and other restoration work in the Surrey section. The volunteer element remains important, partly because we cannot be sure, from one year to the next, of the continuing availability of the MSC grants; the political climate does change a bit.

Long-standing working parties have been restoring Locks 6 and 5 (a locally based group work here) and Lock 1 (by the Guildford

branch of the IWA), all these locks being on the Woodham Flight, to the east of Woking. But the biggest lock restoration site on the canal, up to 1981, was the Deepcut (or Frimley) Flight of 14 locks. Full-time workers did a lot of the work here, but Locks 25, 19 and 16 were restored entirely by volunteers, and there was volunteer involvement in the restoration of most of the other locks. Now the restoration of lock chambers on the Deepcut Flight is complete, and only completion of fitting gates remains before this flight will be fully restored.

The main volunteer effort has now moved to the St Johns (or Goldsworth) Flight, just to the west of Woking. A working compound with huts has been established on the site, and at least one working party operates on the St Johns Flight every weekend. Progress on restoring the two top locks, Numbers 11 and 10, is well advanced, and work has also started on Lock 9. This work has been almost entirely a volunteer operation, with a few small parts of the work on Lock 11 handled by contractors. It is now probably the biggest single volunteer canal restoration project in Southern England.

The restoration of the St John Flight is one of the main tasks remaining in the restoration of the Basingstoke Canal. We would like to see more volunteers, singly or in groups, coming to join in this work. If you would like further details of how you can contribute to this major project, you should contact Mike Fellows on Wokingham 787428.

Pictured at the re-opening of Cowshott Manor Bridge over the Basingstoke Canal at Pirbright, Surrey.

(Left to right): Frank Jones, Co-ordinator of the Youth Opportunities Programme; Robin Higgs, Chairman of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society; Paul Vine, author of 'London's Lost Route to Basingstoke: A history about the canal'; and the High Sheriff of Surrey, Patrick Evelyn.



Around the Region

Chelmsford Branch

Chairman: As was announced on the front cover of the Autumn issue of “*Windlass*”, David Moore has now taken on the task of Region Chairman. The Branch Committee and, we are sure, the Branch members wish him every success in this. This does mean that Dave has had to resign as Branch Chairman, and until our AGM (10th February) Doug Harper will be Acting Chairman. David Johnson will return as Branch Secretary, and Charmian Monk takes over as Sales Officer—assisted by Ian White.

Programme:

Thursday 10 February: AGM and Members Slides.

Thursday 10 March: Waterways of North Humberside—Peter Hardy.

Thursday 14 April: The Regent’s Canal—Dr. Essex Lapresti.

Thursday 12 May: Inland Waterways of Canada—Dr. Roger Squires.

All meetings are at AEUW House, Promrose Hill, Chelmsford, and start promptly at 8.00pm. Members of the Committee are normally there from 7.30pm.

Guildford and Reading Branch

Monday 21 February: Waterways Postcards—Hugh McKnight. British Telecom, Guildford, at 7.30pm.

Friday 25 February: Black Country Museum—Dan McDougal, Southcote Library, Reading, at 7.30pm. A joint meeting with Kennet and Avon Canal Trust Ltd.

Monday 21 March: AGM and Branch Events 1982—British Telecom, Guildford, at 7.30pm.

Sunday 3 April: Basingstoke Canal Cruise, details on page 11.

Monday 18 April: River Thames from the Air—Source to Sea—Chris Stanley. British Telecom, Guildford, at 7.30pm.

Guildford in Bloom: 7-17 July, details on page 11.

Branch Meetings: Like the BBC we aim to educate and entertain. Our winter programme of meetings is now well under way and members have enjoyed some excellent talks, films and slide shows. A capacity crowd (actually about 120% capacity) was present at our joint meeting with Surrey & Hants C.S. to hear Malcolm Braine delve amongst his souvenirs and his memories. There are yet more to come of our superb variety of speakers, (details are in the Branch programme above) and all members, old and new, are invited to these informal evenings. It’s better than television, we have a much higher percentage of waterways material, most of it is in colour, and we don’t ask you to buy a colour licence!

Thames Licences: TWA have abolished the maximum of 6 one-day licences per year, which means that a craft can make any number of voyages between say, Brentford and Oxford using only one-day licences. 1983 rates are £4.68 per day (any length) off-peak and £7.02 per day during the peak season, which is now 1 June—15 September. If the average Brentford-Oxford voyage takes 4 days this should work out a bit cheaper for most boats than buying either a one month licence at £1.04 per sq. metre (off peak), £1.56/sq.m. (peak), or £3.12/sq.m. for an annual licence. These rates, which are for private craft, are 9.3% higher than 1982. Hire craft rates at 1½ times the above, and unfortunately all licences must still be obtained from TWA offices at Reading.

Thames Trip Boats: Ever wondered how Thames trip boats pass so effortlessly through when lock-keepers are off duty? Well, the answer is that trip boat operators can purchase a key to activate the powered machinery of the lock, but they are obliged to allow through with them any other boat wishing to pass the lock. Should it happen that a trip boat excludes you against your wishes please make a note of all the details. Guildford and Reading Branch would be pleased to hear from you, to raise the matter with the Thames Water Authority.

Hertfordshire Branch

Programme: All meetings except that on 30 March (see below) will be held at 8pm at Hatfield Cricket Club which is a very pleasant venue with a well-stocked and reasonably priced bar. The Club is near Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City.

Tuesday 15 February: AGM and Members Slide Evening.

Tuesday 15 March: Understanding Standards—Ian Burgoyne.

Wednesday 30 March: Risers, Cloughs and Racing Tideways—Joint meeting with Grand Union Canal Society at Rickmansworth Hockey Club, Scots Hill, Rickmansworth (A412) at 8.00pm.

Tuesday 19 April: Water Works—John Cunningham.

Tuesday 17 May: The Work of a Customs Officer.

Tuesday 21 June: Waterways of North Humberside—John Hardy.

Lecture Panel: Illustrated talks can be given to organisations by arrangement. These normally feature aspects of the waterways within the Branch area, i.e. the Grand Union Canal from Rickmansworth to Bletchley and the Lee and Stort Navigation above Enfield. Requests for talks should be made to the Lecture Panel Organiser, Harry Bell, 78 Wayside Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts.

Broxbourne Rally: Although the final accounts have not yet been prepared the provisional estimates show a net profit to the Branch funds of over £3,000.

Dacorum Narrow Boat Project: The Project is now so successful that it is in need of more members to help to run it. Last year the Project had four training weekends and hired out “Belfast” to 37 youth groups. With such heavy usage the boat is in need of repairs and members are constantly at work improving it. The next working parties are on 26/27 February, and 5/6 March at the boat’s mooring at Nash Mills, near Hemel Hempstead. New members are wanted to support the project and membership is only £1 per year. The Project is affiliated to the IWA and is a registered charity. Interested?—then contact Mary Parrott, Hemel Hempstead 51555 or write to the membership secretary, Kevin Woods, 50 Valley Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. (S.A.E. please).

Kent and East Sussex Branch

Tuesday 8 February: 7.30 for 8.00pm. Canal Slide Show and Quiz Competition at the Gravesend Sailing Club with the Thames and Medway Canal Association. The attractive licensed venue is in Promenade East, near the Canal Basin at Gravesend.

Saturday 26 March: 7.30 for 8.00pm. Film Show, ‘Leisure on the Medway from Source to Mouth’, preceded by the Branch Annual General Meeting. Venue is the Wheelers Arms, Albert Street, Maidstone. Just off the road to Chatham, turn at the Shell filling station.

Friday 15 April: 8.00 for 8.30pm. Branch Annual Dinner at the Stour Centre, Ashford. Price is £7.95 fully inclusive of VAT, Service, Coffee and a drink on arrival. Cheques made payable to IWA K.andE.S.Branch, should be sent as soon as possible to secure your place, to Ian Ruck, 11 Wickenden Crescent, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. Tel: Ashford 26792.

Sunday 15 May: 10.00am. Sponsored Boat Event on the River Rother from Iden Lock to Bodiam. Envisaged mainly for small craft but larger boats prepared to launch at Rye or already afloat there will be very welcome. Full details from David Strivens, 15 Quarry Rise, Tonbridge, Kent will be available in March.

Sunday 12 June: 10.00am. Sponsored Walk, also in the Eastern Rother area. Full details from Wally Norris, 23 Castle Road, Hythe, Kent will be available in April.

Sunday 17 July: 8.00am. Thames Sailing Barge Trip. The date is subject to confirmation by the owners and the approximate cost is £7.00 from Faversham. The trip will be self-catering and no dogs or children under 14 can be accommodated. Bookings from April to Ian Dempster, 16 Dixwell Close, Gillingham, Kent.

Solent and Arun Branch

Thursday 17 February: St. Mary's Hall, Ilex Way, Goring-by-Sea at 7.30pm, Capt. Brian Williams of Guildford Boats. Those who have heard Capt. Williams will need no further word of invitation; those who haven't—don't miss him this time! The lid off the hire boat business and much more.

Friday 18 March: Fernleigh Centre, Chichester at 7.30pm. AGM, full supporting programme—including film of the re-launching of the Chalk Barge.

Poyntz Bridge Appeal: As a result of donations from members and funds raised by the branch stall we have been able to contribute £250 towards the restoration of this original swing bridge on the Chichester Canal.

London Branch

Thursday 17 February: Continental Canals—Neville New.

Thursday 17 March: Branch AGM and Capt. Mintoe of the PLA on 'The Tidal Thames' (Your chance to make your views felt and shake up that Branch Committee of yours!)

Thursday 21 April: Canal Lifts and Inclined Planes—John Boyes

Thursday 19 May: BIG PUBLIC MEETING—Waterways Fortnight.

Venue: The Old Refectory, University College of London, Gower Street, London WC1. Ample car parking or nearest tube Warren Street. Own Bar. 7.30pm.

Around the Branch

London Branch wishes to thank all members who bid at our auction on December 9th, which produced £130 for IWA funds; also the auctioneer Billy Morris and all those who presented items for sale including Paddy Walker, John Humphreys, "*Waterways World*" and "*Canal & River Boat*".

Salmon's Lane: David Wood (Chairman of the Branch Planning and Navigation Sub-Committee) spoke on Thames TV about the problem of the towpath blockage. To date all that BWB have offered is a jetty attached to the lock for boats to moor to and they insist that the barriers must remain. Although sympathetic to the problems of the Lock-keeper, the Branch Committee consider that the barriers **must go** as they are a hazard to towpath users and boaters, create precedents and add nothing to solving the problems regarding vandalism.

Thames Flood Barrier

GLC told us that the Barrier would only be used to hold back a flood tide and not to alter the Thames regime. However, when testing it over two whole Sundays they raised the Barrier at Low Tide and kept it up for two whole tide cycles. Fair enough; they need to be tested, but scant warning was given—only Notices to Mariners and, later, a letter advising that water extractors (e.g. Power Stations) and anyone with lock gates on to the Thames, could have water shortage problems. The result was that Lock-keepers at Bow, Limehouse and Brentford were not told. Fortunately there were no boats to lock out, but one narrow boat was seen haring downstream; a hotel boat was stranded; and it was rumoured that Lots Road Power Station nearly blew. Limehouse did admit one boat which goes to show that a boat can get in at Low Tide. This leads onto—

Limehouse—Hunting Gate have come up with new plans reducing the waterspace by 35%—no real improvement and LDDC insist on waterside walkways and proper use of the waterspace.

At the other end at **Brentford** it was just possible to take Inspectors from the Brentford District Plan local enquiry on a waterfront inspection. It would have been easier had 3,000 gallons of fuel oil not been spilt into the canal at Wembley, closing the Hanwell flight and preventing boats moving down to Brentford.

As the enquiry at Brentford got under way, Dimsdale Developments lodged their application to infill half the Thames at Brentford. The Branch have filed their objections and anyone else on the Thames should do so as well (Contact David Wood, 20 Walpole Road, Twickenham.

Tel: 01-894 4154.

Not all is gloom though—CEGB have made provision for 100 bollards along the Regent's towpath. This is not just a mere act of generosity as there is an ulterior motive: mooring pins have already damaged the cables which fortunately were dead; now if any pin should sever the cables, 400,000 volts will send the luckless moorer to the happy boating grounds.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

All in all, there is a lot happening around the Branch and most if it is bad. Unless we can keep up the pressure more waterways will disappear so if you feel that you can help, come along to the Branch socials (third Thursday every month) and have a word with the Branch Chairman or anyone else from the Branch Committee.

Oxford and South Bucks Branch

Oxford

Wednesday 9 February: The Norfolk Broadland Waterways by Chris Groves.

Wednesday 9 March: AGM at 7.30pm followed by Waterways filmshow.

Wednesday 13 April: Canadian Inland Waterways by Roger Squires.

Wednesday 11 May: 'Morwellham'—An illustrated talk on this West Country inland port by Brian Rogers.

All the above meetings are held at the Oasis Bar, Morris Radiators Sports and Social Club, Frenchay Road, Oxford at 8pm except March 9th which is at 7.30pm.

Bucks Section

Thursday 17 February: Engineering aspects of BWB by David Smith, Area Engineer.

Thursday 17 March: Carrying in the '70's by Mike Bowley.

Thursday 21 April: AGM followed by illustrated talk—Understanding Standards by Ian Burgoyne.

All the Bucks Section meeting are held in the Bailey Room of the Crown Hotel, Amersham at 7.45pm.

Banbury Section

Tuesday 22 February: Northern France with John Clinch.

Tuesday 29 March: The function of a BWB Area Amenity Assistant with Mrs Jill Adam.

Tuesday 26 April: Details to be announced.

Tuesday 21 May: Waterways filmshow.

Banbury meetings commence at 8pm in the Spiceball Mill, Banbury which for canal travellers is adjacent to Banbury Lock, so try to make your way by boat to the monthly meetings!

LECHLADE '83

The Rally Committee are now well ahead with plans for this major rally of boats on the River Thames at Lechlade. The Chairman is now Maurice Perkins who is planning to have as large a rally as the site will permit, with many attractions. Please note your diaries **NOW** and keep the 4th/5th June free to come to this rally by boat, car or even on foot.

The idea of a rally at this site is to promote the upper reaches of the River Thames as a popular cruising waterway to influence public and official opinion that there is a demand for the River between Cricklade and Lechlade to be improved to full navigation standards. It is a scheme which has great possibilities in that there already exists a right to navigate to Cricklade, there is an adequate water supply and it will eventually lead to a connection with the Thames and Severn Canal and thereby bring eventual restoration of that waterway to a speedier conclusion. Do come and support Lechlade '83, and in doing so, support the Rally Committee who are devoting many hours to ensure that everyone has a great time.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN TO SPEAK AT AGM

Ken Goodwin, the Association's National Chairman, has undertaken to speak at the Region AGM at the Bridge House, Delamere Terrace, Paddington on Friday 6 May at

7.30pm. This is a rare opportunity for you to meet Ken, hear what he has to say and to ask all the questions about the IWA you always wanted to ask but never had the opportunity.

WATERWAYS FORTNIGHT

NATIONAL WATERWAYS FORTNIGHT—“*Potentially the biggest event the IWA has ever staged*”—says Region Chairman Dave Moore.

Saturday 14 May sees the start of National Waterways Fortnight when every branch of the IWA will be staging a special event or series of events designed, as Dave Moore says, to raise money, attract publicity or recruit members—and some branches intend to achieve all of these important objectives.

Branches in South East Region need **your** help in organising events and achieving their objectives—surely it is not too much to ask each one of our readers to give some time before or during the Fortnight to help? Get in touch **today** with your Branch Secretary and offer your help in some way or other. **YOUR WATERWAYS NEED YOU NOW!**

At the time of going to press we had received notice of the following events from Branches:

Hertfordshire Branch

National Waterways Fortnight 1983

Preliminary meetings have been held with G.U.C.S representatives and it has been arranged to mount a publicity display and sales stand on board nb Hadley Rail (by kind permission of John Evans). Approaches have been made to several local firms for sponsorship and any suggestions of additional sponsors should be made to the Branch Chairman, Ian Thonger. The travelling exhibition will move during the mornings and be open to the public in the afternoons and evenings.

The following stops have been agreed:

Sunday 15 May: Marsworth “White Lion”

Monday 16: Bulbourne

Tuesday 17: Northchurch

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19: Berkhamsted

Friday 20 and Saturday 21: Hemel Hempstead “Fishery” Saturday 28-Monday 30: Cassiobury Park

Sunday 22: Apsley “Albion”

Monday 23: Kings Langley

Tuesday 24: Hunton Bridge

Wednesday 25: Cassiobury Park

Thursday 26 and Friday 27: Rickmansworth

All Branch members are asked to note these dates and to assist in helping to mount this event. Offers of help would be appreciated—to Ian Thonger, please.

Solent and Arun Branch

Waterways Fortnight. Branch members will receive details of the “Head of the Arun Cruise” and the “Arun Water Fair” and other activities, including the Spring Coach Trip and the Wey and Arun Canal Trusts’ Sponsored Walk on a separate Newsletter delivered with “Windlass”. Anyone requiring further information please contact Hon. Sec. or Chairman.

Chelmsford

As the Branch’s contribution to National Waterways Fortnight we will be holding our bi-annual sponsored walk on Sunday 22 May. This will start at King’s Head Meadow car park, Chelmsford, at 10.30am and finish at Heybridge Basin car park. A sponsorship form and further details will be circulated shortly. In the meantime please book the date in your diaries.

Guildford and Reading Branch

Watercraft ’83: As part of ‘Waterways Fortnight’ we are holding a huge craft fair on 21/22 May 1983 with antique sales and a waterways exhibition. The venue is Sandown Park Exhibition Complex, Grandstand, Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey from 11am until 5pm. each day. There is space available for 150 inside stalls plus 100 outside **and** at the end of the event a £5 refund on inside stall space will be made to those craftsmen/women who have demonstrated their crafts throughout the fair. The Trade Officer is Brian Percy, ‘Fairview’, 21 New Road, Marlow Bottom, Bucks. Marlow 4575. There will be a number of stalls run by the Branch, e.g. plants, produce, knitted and fabric goods, wooden items and bric-a-brac.

We need your help to donate items for sale and/or help at the event. Chairwoman/Branch Stalls Officer is Angela Percy whose address and telephone are as above.

For the exhibition we should like to borrow any waterways antiques, pictures, photos, maps, books, or artefacts that you would be willing to lend. There will be complete 24-hour security cover. Exhibition Officer: Roy Davenport, 7 Challoners Close, West Molesey, Surrey.

Tel: 01-979 7075.

London Branch

April 30/May 1—British Canoe Union International Marathon round the London Ring

As a curtain raiser to the London Waterways Fortnight, London Branch have been asked by the BWB to help out. Marshalls are needed along various points, e.g. tunnel entrances to allow free passage of the canoes as they pass through. Anyone who is prepared to help (and this is a great chance to fly the IWA flag internationally) please contact Steve Yates, address below.

May 14/15—Thames Sailing Barge Open Day at Greenwich.

THE FORTNIGHT—May 14 to May 27

Tuesday 17: Guided walk on the Regents Canal to City Road Basin, starting from Camden Town LT station at 2.15pm.

Thursday 19: Public Meeting at University College London.

Saturday 21/Sunday 22: CANALWAY CAVALCADE—a procession of boats coming from the east and west, meeting at Little Venice. Lots of fun, games and entertainments. Plaques for boat taking part, see below.

Tuesday 24: Guided walk on the Regents Canal to Little Venice, starting from Camden Town LT station at 2.15pm.

Thursday 26: Guided walk on the Bow Back Rivers.

Canalway Cavalcade

We already have half a dozen or so entrants and we are looking for more. Hopefully there will be a score (or more) of different types of boats—Water rats, Narrow boats, Life boat conversions, Shetlands and so forth. The boats will muster at either end of the proposed route, viz. Bulls Bridge and Old Ford Lock on the Regents Canal on Friday evening/Saturday morning 20/21 May. It is anticipated that on Friday evening entertainments will take place at both mustering venues.

On Saturday morning the boats will proceed along the canal towards Little Venice. On the way they will be expected to pick up passengers such as local Mayors and other civic dignitaries and carry entertainers, e.g. Bands. At various points passengers will alight and entertainment will be provided for passers-by.

On arrival at Little Venice—some time Saturday, mid afternoon, more static entertainments will be provided for boaters and the public alike.

On Sunday 22nd May, the boats will disperse.

In order to take part, please contact Steve Yates at 107 Cambridge Street, Luton LU1 3QT.
Tel: 0582 25514.

Oxford Branch

The Oxford Branch are centering their attention on Oxford in an effort to introduce the inhabitants to their canal. Activities will centre on Frenchay Road (where monthly meetings are held) and will include boat trips and other attractions. Please watch local press and listen to local radio for information nearer the time.

SILVER SWORD AWARD

Amongst those recently awarded Silver Swords is Mr. R. V. Bingham, (London Branch Secretary) whose boat is 'Coal Boy'.

SMALL ADS.

SUPER 25' DAWNCRAFT—many refinements, inboard engine, water heater, nosehatch, Thames standard, etc. Kings Langley 69430.

DANGER 400,000 VOLTS!

It has been drawn to the attention of London branch that boaters have attempted to drive mooring pins between the concrete covers of the C.E.G.B. cable ducts in the towpath of the Regents Canal. These concrete covers, which extend from St. Johns Wood down the Regents Canal and along most of the Hertford Union Canal, are NOT simply paving slabs but cover very expensive cables which are now carrying 400,000 volts.

The C.E.G.B are providing bollards or rings for the convenience of boaters, particularly where their works leave no suitable space for the driving of mooring spikes. Please use these where they are provided and take care to avoid the cable ducts where they are not provided. There is no award for the best illuminated boater!

News from Canal Societies

ROWNER RE-OPENED

Early in 1982 W&ACT Soothsayers were—rashly in some opinions!—predicting that the first boat to use the restored Rowner Lock would go through by Christmas. The first, in fact, to use the lock in well over 100 years. The wet, wet autumn didn't let the "Old Moores" amongst us down and by the beginning of October there was sufficient water above the lock to permit full operation. Restoration of Rowner Lock was the first task the newly formed Wey & Arun Canal Society (as it was then known) set themselves back in 1970. Work began in earnest in 1971, first of all clearing the lock chamber and bridge of trees, bushes and other offending growth. The stone chamber itself was in reasonable condition and in water. The gaps in the stonework of the lock walls were patched in brick, and the capping stones were removed and replaced with blocks of cast concrete. The bridge arch was intact, but the parapets had disappeared, replaced by plain iron poles in concrete posts. These were removed and the parapets were rebuilt in brick.

The top gates were the first to be installed in 1977, with the bottom gates following a little later, in 1981. After final adjustments during 1982 to secure a good fit, and repairs to the bottom gate cill to minimise leakage, Rowner Lock was once again fit to be used!

Owing to the contrary nature of the water supply in this section, we felt we dare not advertise the fact and invite spectators to an opening ceremony, because the rain would be bound to let us down! A few Trust members



"Aeneas" leaves Rowner Lock

were on hand to witness the spectacle and record it for posterity. So, doubtless with some feelings of trepidation, Richard Lamey, responsible for work on the lock in more recent years, approached from the south in the work punt "Aeneas", went through the bottom gates, filled the lock, and then sailed out again through the top gates!

With the dredging programme on this section recently completed almost to Malham Lock, the trip was repeated shortly afterwards. This time the punt was taken from Northlands Bridge, north through Rowner, onwards under Loves Bridge, and then up the Rosewalk to within a stone's throw of Malham Lock—a journey of about 1½ miles and an achievement the Trust are very proud of. We are now currently working on solving the leakage in this section, and trying to secure a more regular supply of water from the River Arun (possibly through a piped in-flow weir), rather than relying solely on winter rainfall and floods.

SLOUGH CANAL SOCIETY

Isobel Mannings, the Society's Hon. Sec. writes: We already have a variety of events in the pipe-line for the coming Spring and Summer. Here's some tasters to whet your appetite.

The Posh Nosh Shake Down Cruise to the De Burgh Arms, West Drayton, on Sunday 27 February. Leaving High Line Yachting at 10.30am. This event has been especially organised so that both boat owners and non-boat owners can all share the fun of a cruise up the Slough Arm. If you don't own a boat there are plenty of boat owners who would be pleased for you to cruise along with them. If you would like to come along, please let me know so that places can be arranged for you. On arrival at the pub, a high quality buffet including a variety of cooked meats, drum sticks, cheeses, french sticks, etc, will be awaiting us, You will also be able to enjoy the delights of Taylor Walker, Taylor Walker Mainline, Friary Meux and Ind Coope Burton real ales, fine wines and convivial company in luxurious surroundings. The tickets are priced at £2.25 (£2.50 non-members) and I can assure you of a really enjoyable time.

The Easter Cruise: March 26/27. Prepare for the Easter Holidays with a weekend cruise to Fisheries Inn at Harefield. We shall be stopping at the General Elliot, opposite Uxbridge Boat Centre for lunch, then going on to Harefield for food and jollifications in the evening. Further details £2.25 for members and £2.50 for non-members.

Following the highly successful Beer and Skittles evenings, another one has been arranged for Saturday June 18. Further details to be announced.

If you have any questions, or wish to buy tickets for these events, please contact me on Slough (75) 78671. REMEMBER! Success depends on you!

“GUILDFORD IN BLOOM”

“Guildford in Bloom” is the theme of a procession of boats to take place on the River Wey during the Guildford Festival. The Festival, which will encompass a wide range of activities of all kinds, takes place from 7 to 17 July 1983 and the IWA Guildford and Reading Branch is participating in the organisation of the water-based events.

A variety of different attractions are planned for the river, for example, canoe events, rowing regatta, crazy raft race. In the ancient ceremony of beating the bounds, the official party will make part of its journey by boat, and an ox roast is planned on an island in the river. It is hoped that art gallery, cinema and theatre boats will all be present.

In addition there will be numerous musical and theatrical events, some of them at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, which is on the riverside at Mill Mead Lock, with a medieval fair taking place in the High Street, only a short walk away. There will be no formal boat rally, so you can come and go as you please, and it is hoped that suitable moorings will be allocated for visiting boats.

So all boaters are invited to Guildford, the most southerly city of the connected inland waterways, with its cathedral, castle and the only remaining treadmill crane in Britain.

Further information from Mr Ulick Palmer. Tel: Cranleigh (0483) 274754.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL CRUISES

IWA Guildford and Reading Branch, in conjunction with Surrey and Hants Canal Society, announce a series of Small Boat Cruises on the Basingstoke Canal.

Over half the length of the canal is now useable again, and it might be considered time that the restorers' efforts were rewarded by the sight of a few more boats using the canal. At present access for boats is rather difficult, and although there is a thriving Canoe Club using the canal it is hoped that the regular appearance of some other waterborne activity will establish a demand for more slipways. All small boats are welcome to participate in any or all of the cruises, which will take place on the first Sunday of each month, April to October inclusive, starting between 10 and 11am from various points along the restored section of the canal.

Basingstoke Canal licences will be available from the organisers at the start of each cruise. Rates for an annual licence are: Single seater unpowered craft £3, multi-seater unpowered £5, up to 14' length powered craft £10. 15-day licences are available at half the above rates.

Arrangements for the first cruises are below, later cruises have details yet to be finalised, and information will be available nearer the time from Tony Davis. Tel: Weybridge (0932) 44261. Basingstoke Canal Cruise: 3 April 1983, Easter Sunday.

Start between 10 and 11am at Ash Lock, Aldershot, Hampshire. Launch over bank (slipway not available), cruise towards head of navigation. Boats reaching North Warnborough lift bridge (approx. 14 miles) will be presented with a certificate and will qualify for 10 bonus points towards an IWA Silver Sword award. Lunch stop at canal-side public house at Fleet, with family room and where own food may be consumed. Transport back to start if required. If intending to participate please advise Tony Davis. Tel: Weybridge (0932) 44261.

ARUN CHALK BARGE APPEAL

John Morgan's appeal in the last issue of "Windlass" on behalf of the Solent & Arun Branch and the Arun Chalk Barge Society for any old engines resulted in an avalanche of offers.

John says that they have been overwhelmed by the generosity of most of the offers and that it just goes to show what friendliness and

kindness there is amongst the waterways community, and wishes to thank all those who have contacted him so far. He adds that although the appeal has resulted in ample offers of engines, gearboxes and props seem to be in short supply, so if you have any of these lying about which might be suitable please do contact John Morgan at 49 Hillbrow Road, Ashford, Kent. Telephone: Ashford 27594.

Late News from Slough Canal Society

WATERWAYS FORTNIGHT GRAND BARBECUE

As you probably know the IWA are holding a Waterways Fortnight at the end of May. They are encouraging societies to join in this event by holding some sort of special function.

We are holding a **Grand Cruise and Barbecue**—a must for everyone and just the thing for brightening up the Bank Holiday.

BOOK THE DATE NOW !

FRIDAY MAY 27th - MONDAY MAY 30th

The itinerary goes like this:

Friday: Leave H.L.Y. in our own time after work and moor for the night at the General Elliott, where we can enjoy a bevvy.

Saturday: Cruise to Fisheries Inn Harefield for lunch and refreshments.

Saturday evening: Grand Barbecue in Cassiobury Park. Moor above Watford Lock. Real Ale provided, bring your own meats and wines.

Sunday: After a lie in! Gently wend our way back, stopping at the 'White Bear' Batchworth Locks, then on to the General Elliott for the evening.

Monday: Return to H.L.Y.

Tickets at bargain prices: £2 members, £2.50 non-members

Have you booked your tickets for the Beer and Skittles at 'The Gardeners Arms', Caversham on June 18th? A 53 seater coach is booked, so lets have 53 people on it!

Ticket prices held at last years rate.

£5 members. £5.50 non-members

. . . Buying a boat
. . . Selling a boat
. . . Mooring a boat
. . . Owning a boat

Then call us now on 01-568 0287

BUYING—Then we have a range of secondhand wide and narrow beam craft for sale. Please feel free to either ring for a list or visit us.

SELLING—Then we are always looking for quality boats to add to our brokerage list. We have a waiting list of clients looking for good clean craft.

MOORING—Where better than Brentford Dock Marina with superb pontoon moorings right in the heart of West London. We are at the confluence of the rivers Thames and Brent giving easy access to the Grand Union canal, the Thames and London's waterways in general.

OWNING—Then call us for your Chandlery needs. Additionally we are always ready to quote for your DIY fitting out equipment.



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