

Excalibur

THE LONDON NEWSLETTER OF
THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 34, NEW YEAR 2002

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*At the Pirate Club's
re-launch party.
See story on page 12.
PHOTO : Giles Higgitt*

**A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL OUR
READERS**



Who's who in London IWA

☎ = answerphone

LONDON REGION

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(vacant)

Treasurer

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Committee members

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(Chairman, Planning & Navigation Cttee)

Libby Bradshaw (020) 8874 2787 ☎

Tim Lewis (020) 8367 6227 ☎
(N&E London Branch Chairman)

David Llewellyn (020) 8653 4862 ☎
(South London Branch Chairman)

Mike Stevens (See page 1 for details)
(Information Officer)

Roger Wilkinson (working overseas)
(One vacancy)

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(Membership Secretary & Publicity Officer)

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Mike Stevens See details on front cover

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Excalibur

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From the Editor

Much ado about nothing?

For some time there has been debate of suggestions that BW should take over from the Environment Agency as Navigation Authority on the Thames, the Medway and Fenland rivers. Users of these rivers were divided about it. Some saw benefits from BW's approach and in a Navigation Authority for whom this function was their main one, not just a minor department as it is with the EA. Others, on the other hand, felt there were dangers in dividing the functions of flood control and navigation (although that divided regime seems to work adequately on the Trent and the Severn).

The IWA took a long time to make up its mind, and finally threw its weight behind the change. A Parliamentary Committee recommended no change, but the Government took some time considering this recommendation before finally agreeing to retain the *status quo*.

Margaret Beckett MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when making the announcement, said that she was "attracted by the potential regeneration benefits a transfer to British Waterways could bring" and that "flood defence issues do not pose an insuperable barrier to transfer, given British Waterways' safety record on its own rivers". She has also set the Agency tough new targets that it must meet in the provision of customer service to navigation users. The Minister specifically refused to give the Agency any assurance that it would retain its navigation responsibilities in the long term, and the review could resurface if the Agency fails to meet the required standards.

All this makes an old cynic like your Editor wonder whether the decision wasn't in fact driven by a lack of will on the part of Government to allocated Parliamentary time to the primary legislation that would have been necessary to bring about such a change.

IWA national information

The best source for this is *Head Office Bulletin*, published monthly. It comes out in several forms: on paper by post, by e-

mail and on the Association's web site. Since its launch a couple of years ago it has made a big improvement to the information flow to members. It is sent automatically to all members of Region and Branch Committees and can also be sent to any other member who wishes to receive it. If you want to know what's going on in IWA and in the waterways generally, I can highly recommend it. If you'd like to receive it, please contact IWA Head Office (address at the foot of this page).

Seasonal greetings

Christmas will be over when you read this, so our best wishes for then have to be retrospective. Wendy and I plan spending Christmas on our boat at Little Venice (if we get it back in time from Milton Keynes where's it's had major engine surgery).

But (fingers crossed!), the New Year will still be in prospect when this issue drops through your letter box, and so the Editorial team wish a happy New Year to all our readers, with good boating, towpath walking or whatever form your enjoyment of the waterways takes.

It promises to be a memorable year, with the Anderton Lift and Rochdale Canal due to re-open, following the other openings we saw in 2001.

Mike Stevens

COPY DATES

No. 35	Spring 2002	28 th February
No. 36	Summer 2002	21 st June
No. 37	Winter 2002/3	26 th October

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The Editor reserves the right to edit any article or letter submitted for publication.

ROUTES AND BRANCHES :

Middlesex Branch bounces back.

Recently Middlesex Branch was suffering badly from a depleted committee as various members had been compelled by outside circumstances to give up, or cut back on, their commitment to the Committee. For a time they suspended their social meetings, as they were lacking an organiser for them.

Then, in October, they called a Branch meeting to discuss the future of the Branch, at which a number of members expressed a willingness to help. Since then this has produced five new co-options to the Committee, including a replacement for Sarah Escott as their Planning Officer, in the person of John Ashley. Names & contact details of the new Committee members are on page 2.

South London goes to railway show

Every two years the Norbury and South London Transport Club runs a Model Railway and Transport Exhibition at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon. 2001 was one of these years, and for the second time IWA South London Branch's publicity stand was there, staffed by Lesley Pryde, Neville Munro and your Editor, with David Llewellyn providing transport for the stand.

This and the sales stand from IWA Guildford & Reading Branch were the only representatives there of water-borne transport, apart from some pictures of the Croydon Canal in a big siaplay about the history of transport in Croydon, linked to the publication of an excellent new book on that subject.

But it was encouraging to see how many of the model railway layouts on display, nearly all of an extremely high standard, had included a canal or river wharf in their surroundings. One of these was the subject of a puzzle picture at the South London Branch Christmas Dinner.

As on our previous visit to the show, there was a lot of interest shown in the former Croydon Canal, and a lot of encouragement for our project (still at an early stage of planning) to raise funding for some commemorative signs along its route.

While it wasn't the sort of event at which a major IWA recruitment push was particularly appropriate, we concentrate our effort in trying to raise interest in our local meetings, and gave out a couple of hundred of leaflets to people who showed an interest and one or two have since shown up at our socials..

London Region 200 Club winners

The 200 Club has been running for fifteen years or so and is now the Regions primary source of fund-raising. We now need the 200 Club to be able to continue to publish *Excalibur* in its present form. Membership is currently in the low 90's. This is a plea for 100 or so of our members to fill in the entry form on page 9 and become members, or for 50 members to fill in the form and apply for two memberships.

Winners in 2001 to date are :-

February draw

1 st	76	Mike Stevens	£46
2 nd	319	Edward Heron	£23
3 rd	287	Sally Naylor	£12
4 th	154	Ms J R Smith	£12

April draw

1 st	303	Gordon Thomson	£46
2 nd	67	Percy Copley	£23
3 rd	264	Mike Dyer	£12
4 th	201	Ms J R Smith	£12

June draw

1 st	28	Arthur Farrand Radley	£46
2 nd	156	Mr E A Beasley	£23
3 rd	122	David Stevenson	£12
4 th	201	Ms J R Smith	£12

August draw

1 st	85	Joan Pugsley	£45
2 nd	283	Roger Martyn	£23
3 rd	153	Ms J R Smith	£12
4 th	142	Mr M Smee	£12

October draw

1 st	246	Mike Evans	£45
2 nd	284	Roger Martyn	£23
3 rd	112	Mr P Pledger	£12
4 th	306	Liz Hanham	£12

Region, Branch and Navigation news

It's that time of year

..... when Annual General Meetings approach and we look for volunteers to help run the Branches' and Regions' activities, both social and campaigning. One or two people are standing down this year and will need replacing. Roger Wilkinson is currently working overseas and does not expect to be back for some time, and Vernon Draper has moved from Coulsdon to Milton Keynes.

At Region level we will therefore need to find a new Treasurer and Secretary. The latter job would be made much easier if we also found a separate Minutes Secretary (who does not need to be a full member of the Committee). There has also been a vacancy on the Region Committee for some months which we are keen to fill.

North and East London Branch needs several more Officers & Committee members, especially since Alex Nunes has been suffering from ill-health (best wishes to him).

South London Branch needs volunteers to organise the social meetings at both of its venues since Mary Llewellyn wishes to stand down from that job for South Norwood, and the job for Mottingham is only covered temporarily at the moment.

The Region's Planning & Navigation Committee also needs some more members to help with its busy work. Anybody interested in this side of our work should contact Ron Bingham (details on page 2)

Search and Rescue on the Thames

Responsibility for this has been undefined in the past. In practice the job has been done mainly by the River Police, and sometimes by the PLA launches, although it was never really the job of either. Now, with the River Police being restructured to concentrate more fully on crime, especially drugs traffic, new arrangements will come into place from 2nd January.

The search and rescue service between Teddington and Canvey Island will be operated by the RNLI, from four new lifeboat stations. Three of these, at Gravesend, Tower Pier and Chiswick Pier, will be permanently staffed by a mixture of RNLI-paid crew and volunteers, while the fourth, based at Teddington and covering the section above Richmond Half Tide Barrier, will have an all-volunteer crew who will be called out as needed. The operation will be controlled by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency from a new base at the Thames Barrier in Woolwich, with radio call sign "London Coastguard".



The (fairly new) tidal residential moorings on Three Mills Wall River behind the House Mill at Bromley-by-Bow are now nicely busy.
PHOTO : Mike Stevens, August 2001

London WRG news

London WRG's working year traditionally ends with a combined work party and Christmas party with our friends in KESCRG. This year is no different, and it's the turn of the Wilts & Berks Canal to receive our attention, with some serious scrub-clearance work at Foxham, west of Wootton Bassett. And probably some equally serious partying on the Saturday evening.

But by the time you read this we'll have finished work for 2001 and be looking forward to the start of our 2002 programme of weekend working parties.

This kicks off on January 12-13 with another trip to the Wilts & Berks - only this time it's the other side of Wootton Bassett, and we'll be working on rebuilding Summit Lock. If we get on as well as we did last time we were there in October - when we laid about 2000 bricks in a weekend - the first lock chamber wall should be well on the way to completion.

Then on February 2-3 it's back to one of our favourite sites: Thames & Severn Canal at Valley Lock near Chalford. Why is it a favourite? Well, firstly it's got a variety of interesting work - bricklaying, concreting, working with machinery, traditional muck-shifting (or 'chamber clearance' as it is known) - and last time we were there in September we reinstalled some coping-stones using some techniques that were traditional enough that they would have been fairly familiar to the builders of Stonehenge! Secondly, the site is in the middle of the Cotswolds, in the picturesque Golden Valley. And finally... well, the Bell Inn at Selsley is very convenient for the accommodation, and does sell very good beer...

On 23-24 February we'll be working rather closer to home, on the Basingstoke Canal. We've seen rather a lot of the Basingstoke recently - it was one of the few work-sites that wasn't affected by Foot & Mouth



*Stonehenge-type techniques in use at Valley lock.
Photo : Martin Ludgate*

Disease, so a lot of work parties were re-located there in the spring and early summer. As a result of which, the back-pumping system that we've been working on installing at Woodham Locks is now complete, and the length of canal from the River Wey to Woking has been able to stay open all year for the first time since we finished restoring it 10 years ago. As it happens, this spring was so wet that it probably would have stayed open anyway! Oh well. Anyway, now we're moving on to the next flight of locks at St Johns, installing a backpump system there as part of a gradual programme of improving water supplies to the whole canal.

On March 16-17 we're taking part in the National Canal Cleanup. This usually targets one of the worst bits of the supposedly-navigable Birmingham Canal Navigations system, and 100-plus volunteers spend a weekend removing old bikes, prams, shopping trolleys, armchairs, TVs and worse from the canal... and these days we've started pulling-out computers too! But this time, by way of a change, it looks like we'll be heading north and doing the same job on an equally rubbish-filled length in Manchester.

After another bricklaying weekend on the Wilts & Berks on 6-7 April, we'll be returning on 27-28 April to the place that became a home-from-home for us in 2000:

From the Region Chairman

The advent of a new year offers an opportunity to reflect on past events and look forward to those ahead. For the IWA nationally, 2001 was a good year. Progress was made on various longer term campaigns. Sizable legacies were donated to the IWA cause. Significant grants were made to assist developments that were in dire need of funds. These enabled projects such as the Droitwich restoration and the Wendover Arm reopening to proceed apace. The final works on the Anderton Lift were completed. The Ribble link got underway and the long awaited Huddersfield Narrow Canal link, with Standedge tunnel, were completely reopened.

The year 2002 offers us the same opportunity for real progress. The Rochdale Canal should be ready for through traffic by the middle of the year. The Falkirk Wheel, linking the Forth and Clyde and Union Canal, should start to operate. What a waterways wonder that will be. Various other schemes will be coming forward, all offering a real opportunity for the waterways to play an active role in our nations living heritage.

This leads me to reflect on what opportunities there might be in our own area. Firstly, over in the east the Channel Tunnel rail link works will start to gather a pace. We will seek to ensure that where ever possible water freight is used. Not only will this keep traffic off the roads, but it will offer a very environmentally friendly way of moving the vast amounts of spoil. We will need to watch the developments in this area very carefully, since, once the rail link is completed, it could be a major redevelopment

opportunity . We will need to promote the benefits of waterspace to all potential developers. Secondly, over in the West, there may be the opportunity of reintroducing limited gravel traffic on the lower reaches of the Grand Union. We will need to work with our colleagues in the Inland Shipping Group to see this gets a fair wind.

One of our major concerns must be the redevelopment of Brentford and the protection of water space there and amenities for boaters. All too often, the existing facilities come under pressure as the 'big bucks' start to optimise on their investments. Likewise, we must actively monitor local planning proposals throughout the Region. We need to seek to influence local strategic plans to ensure that all water space is protected; our canal heritage is preserved , and opportunities for real gain for all waterway users are not lost forever.

All these issues lead me to my final concern. At the moment far too many IWA members are very passive. We get only a few attending the social meetings and lectures, and even less offering their services to Branch and Regional Committees. In March the various Branches will be holding their AGMs. Can I ask each of you to consider personally what you can contribute to the IWA in the coming year. Each and every member has talents. Do please offer them for the benefit of our cause.

Let us together create a waterway network fit for the 21st century.

Roger Squires

London WRG news cont'd

Over Basin, on the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal. We'll be working on putting in a permanent water supply for the canal basin that we worked so hard to complete on schedule last year.

New volunteers are welcome on any London WRG working parties (with transport

usually available from London) and also at our social gatherings which happen on the Tuesday 11 days before each working party at the 'Jugged Hare' pub in Vauxhall Bridge Road. Contact Tim Lewis 020 8367 6227 or e-mail wrgtim@netscapeonline.co.uk for more details.

Martin Ludgate

REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the London Region of the Inland Waterways Association will take place at 8 pm on Thursday 18 April 2002 at *The Lamb*, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1 (nearest tube station, Russell Square)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2001 AGM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Report(s) of the Chairman and Secretary
5. Report of the Treasurer and presentation of accounts
6. Adoption of accounts
7. Statement of Committee size
8. Election of Committee members
9. Address by a visiting member of IWA Council
11. Any other business

NOTICE OF REGION COMMITTEE ELECTION

The current agreed maximum size of the Region Committee is nine, consisting of the three Branch Chairmen and six directly elected members. There has been one vacancy throughout the year, and more recently another caused by Roger Wilkinson stepping down because his work has taken him overseas. There will therefore be two vacancies to be filled. Nominations for election must be received by Roger Squires (address on page 2) at least two weeks before the date of the AGM, i.e. by Thursday 4 April. All candidates must be paid-up members of the Region at the time of election, and must be proposed and seconded in writing (with their own signature indicating their willingness to stand).

BRANCH AGMs AND ELECTIONS

The Annual General Meetings of the three Branches will be held at the following times and places :

Middlesex Branch	8.00 pm on Tuesday 12 March 2002 at Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge (nearest tube station, Uxbridge)
South London Branch	8.00 pm on Wednesday 13 March 2002 at South Norwood Conservative Club, South Norwood Hill, SE25. (Nearest station Norwood Junction BR)
North & East London Branch	8.00 pm on Tuesday 19 March 2001 at Millfield Arts Centre, Silver St, Edmonton, N18 (nearest station, Silver Street BR)

In each case the agenda will be identical to that for the Region AGM except that the speaker at item 9 will be the Region Chairman, Roger Squires.

Nominations for election to each of the Branch Committees must be received by the relevant Branch Secretary (details on page 2) at least two weeks before the date of the AGM. All candidates must be paid-up members of the Branch at the time of election, and must be proposed and seconded in writing (with their own signature indicating their willingness to stand).

IWA LONDON REGION 200 CLUB

The club was formed some years ago to help fund the running of the Region, so that other sources of income could be devoted more fully to campaigning and donations to waterways causes. At the moment the Club is well below its target of 200 members. If you've not yet joined, why not do so now? If you are a member, you can always take out an extra membership or two!

Members of the Club must be IWA members aged 18 or over. The annual subscription to the club is £12, payable by annual cheque or standing order (either for £12 annually or £1 monthly). A member may hold more than one membership of the Club. Prizes are awarded by a draw which takes place six times a year. When the club has its full quota of 200 members, each draw awards four prizes of £100, £50, £25, £25. When the Club has less than 200 members, prizes are reduced so that the ratio of prizes to subscriptions remains the same. The present officers of the Club are : Chairman : Mike Stevens; Secretary : Venon Draper; Treasurer : Tim Lewis. Contact details for all of these are on page 2. All queries should be addressed to Vernon Draper.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To the Officers,

I wish to become a member of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 Club. I have completed and enclose the standing order / enclose a cheque as payment for membership(s) at £12 each.

Full name

Address

..... Postcode

'Phone (day) (evening).....

I am a member of the Inland Waterways Association and I agree to be bound by the rules of the London Region 200 Club.

Signed..... Date.....

Cheques should be made payable to "IWA London Region 200 Club"

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To : The Manager Bank/Building Soc.ety

Address.....

..... Postcode

Please pay to Barclays Bank plc, Kettering Branch,, Sort code 20-45-77 for the credit of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 Club Account no. 80204234, quoting reference(*) as follows :

(ANNUAL OPTION) the sum of £..... (..... pounds only) with immediate effect and on the first day of (*) each year thereafter until further notice from me.

(MONTHLY OPTION) the sum of £..... (..... pounds only) with immediate effect and on the first day of each month thereafter until further notice from me.

Please debit my account in the name of Account no , accordingly

Signature Date

(*) will be inserted by Officers when processing.

The two halves of the form should be sent to Vernon Draper at the address on page 2.

ON THE METREAU :



The new floating Classroom "Beauchamp"

A floating classroom for London

After a break of more than 40 years London's canals once again have their own floating classroom, the first of a new fleet of education canal boats, which was launched at Little Venice on Tuesday 16th October 2001. The ceremony was performed by the broadcaster John Craven OBE, formerly the presenter of "John Craven's Newsround" for young people, and now presenter of "Country File". He was assisted by children from Wilberforce Community School, the Chief Executive of BW and the Chairman of the Waterways Trust..

'Beauchamp' is a purpose-built, floating classroom with state-of-the-art education facilities and an electric propulsion system. At 22 metres long and 4.2 metres wide, the boat can carry up to 35 children at a time on cruises along London's canals.

The boat cost £300,000, and has been made possible by a partnership between British

Waterways London, The Waterways Trust and Beauchamp Lodge Settlement, with additional funding and support from London's Waterway Partnership, Paddington Basin Developments Ltd, Cleanaway Ltd, New Life of Paddington and Timeplan Educational Group Ltd.

Owned by The Waterways Trust, Beauchamp will be operated by Beauchamp Lodge Settlement, which has appointed a permanent crew and teacher. The boat will operate over a nine-mile stretch of the Paddington Branch of the Grand Union Canal and will be available to schools in the boroughs of Brent, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham. In order to help subsidise the cost to the schools, the boat will also be hired out for community and private functions.

"This is the shape of things to come," said Mark Bensted, Director of British Waterways London. *"We and London's Waterway Partnership plan to have a whole fleet of these boats,*

offering education services to schools across London. Our waterways are enjoying an unprecedented revival but regeneration is about more than just bricks and mortar. It is exactly this type of project which will help engage a new generation of canal lovers and deliver a truly sustainable future for our canals and rivers."

Ellenor Anwyl, Director of Beauchamp Lodge Settlement, said; *"The schoolchildren will be able to experience and explore the canals and the life they support all year-round using innovative, hands-on activities. This will expand their horizons and instil a sense of responsibility for their local environment and they will have a great day out into the bargain!"*

The last (and only known) floating classroom to operate on London's canals, the 'Elsdale', was launched in Paddington Basin in 1930 by the Bishop of Bermuda. *Elsdale* was a converted canal barge, paid

news and gossip of London's waterways

for - with the encouragement of the London City Mission - by the Grand Union Canal Company (GUCC). The boat was named after Reverend Daniel Elsdale, an Anglican parson who had striven to improve the lot of the children of the boat people - an itinerant, and increasingly impoverished, community which still operated boats on Britain's inland waterways at that time.

It is believed that the GUCC saw the *Elsdale* as a way to counter the Canal Boats Bill, which sought to ban children living on canal boats. If true this reveals a less than generous motive for the company, in attempting to maintain a cheap workforce. After the *Elsdale* sank in 1939, it was lifted out of the water and placed on dry land, near Bull's Bridge in West London, where it continued to operate as a school until 1960

Docklands Museum to open

The Museum in Docklands, a project that has been a long time in the planning, is due to open Spring 2002. Originally conceived of as an off-shoot of the Museum of London, it became an independent body, changed its name and its venue. It is now scheduled to open before Easter in the No.1 Warehouse at West India Docks, a Grade 1 listed building which has been carefully converted for its new purpose thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The museum will display 2000 years of London's river, port and people and will house the PLA archive.

IWA London Region was pleased to welcome Chriss Ellmers, Director of the Museum, as its speaker at a recent central London social meeting.

London Canal Museum news

ON the evening of Tuesday 11 December, a new display board was unveiled at the Museum which has been funded by IWA. It is one of two new boards dealing with the later history of the waterways, one describing the run-down of the system in the railway age and the other its recovery since the second world war under the influence of IWA and other voluntary

groups. It is the latter of these that has been funded jointly by IWA London Region and IWA Sales, in memory of the late Len House, a member of the former IWA London Banch Committee who was a formidable fund-raiser and involved with the group which launched the campaign that led to the creation of the Museum.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Roger Squires in his dual capacity as a member of the Museum's Board of Management and our own IWA Region Chairman. Liz Payne, one of IWA's national Deputy Chairmen was also present, along with a number of London IWA members who worked with Len in his hey-day.

Safer Waterways for London

An early development in the GLA's wider initiative for safer waterways in London, has been the production of a leaflet, *'Stepney Waterfront - Stay Safe on the Waterway.'* This dual-language colour leaflet was a direct response to local community concerns. The London Waterways Partnership also are financing a pan-London Waterways Safety Initiative. They recently appointed Emma Burfoot as their Water Safety Training and Project Development Officer. Emma is employed through the Lea Rivers Trust (formerly the Lower Lea Project) and is based at Eagle Wharf on the Regents Canal. She would welcome contacts with those interested in progressing water safety issues.

Roger Squires

The mind boggles

Ron Bingham recently saw a sign advertising facilities at a boatyard "Elsan disposal skip"!!

Which reminds me

..... that those of you who need to contact Ron Bingham in his role as Plan/Nav Chairman may need to know his new fax number, (020) 8855 3711

PIRATE CLUB RE-LAUNCH

Saturday 16th September was a very special day for the Pirate Club, for it was then that Pirate Castle reopened its doors to the local children. It was a very happy event with many smiling faces.

The castle had been shut for some time while the money was raised to make alterations to the building that would bring it into line with current Health and Safety Regulations. Thanks to the London Waterways Partnership for their help here.

The Pirate Club was founded in 1966 by the Viscount St Davids as a boat club for the local children. He was a great believer in the use of the canal for leisure and he was keen to encourage young people to use the canal and to gain boating skills. A barge, *Rosedale*, was bought and converted with a plastic and corrugated iron roof into a clubhouse and workshop. An old pot-belly stove had pride of place in the centre of the barge and the members collected driftwood from out of the canal when they were out rowing. The Pirates became famous for the raids they carried out on passing boats and many people remember these encounters with pleasure.

Much fundraising was required to provide the Pirate Club with a permanent home, but in 1977 the Pirate Castle was built to a design by Seifert's the architects who are famous for the *Centrepont* building.

In 1982 HRH Prince Charles named the Pirate Club's narrowboat *Pirate Princess*. A full-length boat capable of carrying parties of up to 12 people, she has given many thousands of young people a taste of life afloat. Many of the groups that have used the boat would not normally be able to gain access to the waterways and it is for these groups that the boat was built. The Pirate Club was a founder member of the Community Boats Association and the club is a training centre for the Certificate in Community Boat Management, which is the qualification required to skipper boats like *Pirate Princess* and *Pirate Viscount*.

Visitors to the Re-Launch Party had a chance to try boating in canoes, coracles and rowing boats. Trips were on offer throughout the afternoon on *Pirate Viscount*. Arts activities were available in

the main hall supplied by the irrepressible Sam and Amelia of *aka Rampage*. Jim Marshall gave instruction in painting canal roses. There were fairground attractions as well; the striker was popular and so was the throwing of wet sponges at some innocent victim. A greasy pole was fun too, but at times it seemed that the barbeque was the biggest hit. The mayor of Camden, Cllr. Roger Robinson, arrived in style by narrowboat and had a fine time in a rowing boat before the serious business of the speeches and the official reopening.

Special thanks go to the Inland Waterways Association (North and East London Branch) for their sponsorship of the event. Thanks too to Libby Bradshaw and her friends and contacts for helping make things run so well and so smoothly.

Much help and encouragement came from Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder of Groundwork Camden and Islington. She steered the club towards Millennium Funding by the London Waterways Partnership of activities within the castle. An arts and a theatre project were set up and by December 2000 a play called *The Canal is Our World*, written and directed by Michael Benenson, was performed by the local children to packed houses.

The Pirate Club has learnt that it cannot stand alone and it needs partners to achieve anything worthwhile. To deliver the canal play last year the club joined forces with *aka Rampage* of London Zoo, Alasdair Gordon of the Community Housing Association and the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm.

The Club has been fortunate to raise funds towards the cost of a full-time youth worker to develop the activities for young people at the castle. This funding has come from the John Lyons Trust. It is hoped have someone in post in 2002.

The Jubilee Centre, which is an outdoor pursuits provider in Camden, is moving into the Pirate Castle whilst their building is renovated. Thus canoeing and climbing will soon become available to the local children again. There will soon be a computer project based in the castle as well. It seems that the Pirate Club has a golden future ahead of it.

Giles Higgitt

Waterways events in and around London.

See back page for details of venues and contacts for further information.

For up-dates to this list, watch the Diary page on the Region web site
at <http://www.london.waterways.org.uk>

JANUARY 2002

- Thursday 3rd 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE. Dr Roger Squires: *"Early Canal Development - ideas from Europe"*.
- Thursday 3rd 7.30pm IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH. Geoff White: *"The Grand Union Canal"*.
- Sunday 6th LONDON CANAL MUSEUM TEMPORARY EXHIBITION opens. *"Islington Tunnel"*.
- Sunday 6th 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. Mile End to Limehouse. Meet at MileEnd tube station. About 2 hours. £5 per head (concessions £4).
- Wednesday 8th 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT SOUTH NORWOOD. Mike Stevens: *"Waterways relics, one-offs & oddities"*.
- Tuesday 15th 8pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH. Speaker Steve Burt
- Tuesday 15th 8pm IWA HERTS BRANCH. Members' slides
- Thursday 17th 8pm IWA LONDON REGION. Colin Edwards: *"Boats & Castles - the Rhine and Moselle"*.
- Thursday 17th 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. Mike Lucas: *"I'd go back tomorrow"*.
- Sunday 20th 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal: Paddington to Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £5 per head (concessions £4).
- Friday 25th 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT MOTTINGHAM. Steve & Mandy Morley. *"A Ramble down the Rhine"*.

FEBRUARY 2002

- Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. *"Islington Tunnel"*. Temporary Exhibition continues.

- Sunday 3rd 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.* The Regent's Canal. King's Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station, by taxi rank. About 2 hours. £5 per head (concessions £4).
- Thursday 7th 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE. Dereck Pratt. "*Anatomy of Canals*".
- Tuesday 12th 8pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH. Mike Stevens - "*The Oxford Canal*"
- Wednesday 13th 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH at SOUTH NORWOOD. Nick Sutcliffe. "*Burgess Park and the Grand Surrey Canal*".
- Saturday 16th 7.30pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH. Film Show, St Pancras Cruising Club.
- Sunday 17th 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.* The Regent's Canal. Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).
- Thursday 21st 8pm IWA LONDON REGION. Mike Stevens. "*The Oxford Canal*" (postponed from September 20th 2001).
- Thursday 21st 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. John Fletcher: "*The River Weaver and the Anderton Lift*".
- Friday 22nd 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT MOTTINGHAM. Dick Harper-White "*Skills of the Cut no.1 : Decorative Painting*"

MARCH 2002

- Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. "*Islington Tunnel*". Temporary Exhibition continues.
- Sunday 3rd 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.* The Regent's Canal. Mile End to Limehouse. Meet at Mile End tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).
- Thursday 7th 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE. David Daines. "*Fellows Morton and Clayton, canal carriers*".
- Saturday 9th 10am LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Family Workshop Day on the Islington Canal, with boat trips to the Canal.
- Wednesday 13th.8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT SOUTH NORWOOD. Branch AGM followed by a round-up of matters of current interest.

- Sunday 17th 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.* The Regent's Canal Paddington to Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head. (concessions £4).
- Tuesday 19th 8pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH. Branch AGM followed by a talk by Tim Lewis.
- Thursday 21st 8pm IWA LONDON REGION. Martin Ludgate - *"The Waterway Recovery Group and the Over Basin project!"*
- Thursday 21st 8pm IWACHILTERN BRANCH. Branch AGM. Speaker TBA
- Friday 22nd 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT MOTTINGHAM. Richard Thomas *"The Gunpowder Plot - the Waltham Abbey Polder Mills"*.

APRIL 2002

- Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. *"Islington Tunnel"*. Temporary Exhibition continues.
- Thursday 4th 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE. Brian E.Sturt *"Seventeen Bridges to Wandsworth"*.
- Sunday 7th 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.* The Regent's Canal. King's Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station, by taxi rank. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4)
- Wednesday 10th 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT SOUTH NORWOOD. Jim Phillips. *"The Wey & Arun Canal"*.
- Thursday 18th 8pm IWA LONDON REGION. Region AGM & (subject to confirmation) update on the London Canals Partnership SRB project..
- Thursday 21st 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. John Acres: *"The Lancaster Canal - past, present and future"*.
- Saturday 20th 8pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH. Boatmen's Evening. Venue TBA.
- Sunday 21st 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.* The Regent's Canal. Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).
- Friday 26th 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT MOTTINGHAM. *"Skills of the Cut no.2"* (details to be announced.)

Venue details & contact people

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	<i>The Lamb</i> Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1 (Nearest tube Russell Square)	Mike Stevens (see details on page 1)
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge	Robin Bishop (020) 8452 2632
IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH SPEAKER MEETINGS AT EDMONTON	Millfield Arts Centre, Silver St., Edmonton, N18. (near the Great Cambridge Rd. junction. ⁵ / ₈ mile west of Silver Street BR station).	Jenny Nunes (020) 8440 8962
IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH AT THE PIRATE CASTLE	The Pirate Castle, Oval Road, NW1 (Nearest tube, Camden Town).	Jenny Nunes (020) 8440 8962
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (SOUTH NORWOOD)	S.Norwood Conservative Club South Norwood Hill SE25 (Close to Norwood Junction BR)	Mary Llewellyn (0181) 653 4862
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM)	<i>The Royal Tavern</i> , Mottingham (corner of Court Rd & Sidcup Rd, close to Mottingham BR).	Libby Bradshaw (020) 8874 2787
LONDON IWA / LONDON WALKS TOWPATH WALKS	As listed. Each about 2 hours. £5.00 (concessions £3.50).	London Walks (020) 7624 3978
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP	Meeting point for digs is usually Waterloo Station 7 pm on Friday to travel to site. Socials the <i>Jugged Hare</i> pub Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1. (Victoria tube station)	Lesley McFadyen (020) 8693 3266
LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	12 New Wharf Road, King's Cross, London, N1 9RT Opens Tues. to Sun, 10 am - 4:30 pm. Admission £2.50, concessions £1.25, Admission to lectures £2.50, concessions £1.25..	(020) 7713 0836
IWA CHILTERN BRANCH	Old Market Hall, Amersham	Colin Bird 01932 248178
IWA KENT & E SUSSEX BRANCH	<i>The Bull</i> , East Farleigh	Sid Sharman 01795 872839
IWA LEE & STORT BRANCH	<i>The New Inn</i> , Roydon	Craig Haslam 07956 84925
IWA HERTS BRANCH	Hatfield Cricket Club	Celia Byham 01992 466180

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