

WINDLASS



SOUTH EAST REGION

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION



Photo—R. H. Perks

Boats at the National Rally 1986

December 1986

Number 179

windlass

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION



Inland Waterways
Association

Editor: Richard Hugh Perks

Patron: Dame Margot Fonteyn

Chairman: David Moore,
12 Rectory Rd, Stanford-le-Hope,
Essex Tel: Stanford-le-Hope 677729

Secretary: Mike Stimpson, 109a High Street,
Rickmansworth, Herts. Tel: 0923-7-70425

Region President: Illyd Harrington

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

The IWA may not agree with opinions expressed in this magazine but encourages publication as a matter of interest. Nothing printed may be construed as policy or an official announcement unless so stated, otherwise the Association accepts no liability for any matter in the magazine. Although every care is taken with advertising, no responsibility whatsoever can be accepted for any matter advertised.

© IWA South East Region 1986. Published by the Region at the Association's General Office,
114 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UG. Telephone: 01-586 2510 and 01-586 2556

Editorial

THE FIRST CUCKOO—Now that winter is here the adventurous among you will be looking to those icy winter delights of a frost cruise, leaving the rest of us to plan and contemplate on the balmy summer cruises that we always expect but seldom get. Others of you, I know, are already making arrangements to visit suitable vantage points in order to be able to observe the first cuckoo.

This cuckoo is small and green, sometimes under tan sails and often under oars and goes by the name of *Shoal Waters*. Throughout the year I receive regular reports of its sighting from places as far afield as the Suffolk Coast and the tranquil waters of the 'cut'. I have been privileged to enjoy many of these sightings myself. During the summer, when I was tied up to a bankside on the Norfolk Broads, we observed a familiar profile. 'That could be a replica of Charlie Stock and *Shoal Waters*.' I don't know how many miles Charlie navigated with *Shoal Waters* last year. He was seen off Great Yarmouth; I saw him in Norfolk; Richard Smith got a sighting of him in Harwich Harbour; then, seemingly only a few days later he was at the National Rally, bringing with him a message from the Mayor of Chelmsford to the Mayor of Hounslow. It seems that everywhere I sail, I get a sighting of Charlie sailing his 16 foot gaffer.

This is boating and Charlie Stock is a fine ambassador for the waterway movement and a great inspiration to everyone who wants to get afloat. The purpose of this little piece is merely to thank you, Charlie, for the pleasure you give us in knowing that *Shoal Waters* is about.

Meanwhile, *Windlass* offers a prize for the sighting of the 'first cuckoo' under-way in 1987.

Of this pioneer breed was the late Marcus Boudier, founder and chairman of the Odd Boats Society who was unfortunately drowned on Heartbreak Hill in October. Marcus was a very good friend to so many of us. With his wife Val he cruised thousands of miles aboard his *Drusilla*. The waterway movement needed people like Marcus.

Another of these pioneers was Captain Lionel Munk, who has recently retired as President of the South East Region, to whom we are greatly indebted for his efforts on behalf of our waterways. We are pleased to welcome, as our new Regional President, the popular Illyd Harrington who is a former Chairman of what used to be the London Region of IWA.

I leave mention of the 'old pioneer' to the last. Author, lecturer and distinguished servant of the waterway movement, John Gagg is retiring early from the Council of IWA. We wish you a happy retirement, John, in full knowledge that you will be bringing us more of the 'Odd Waterway Corners' that we so much enjoy.

If it was not for the dedicated few, farsighted enough to dream of restoration of our inland waterways, and for the pioneers who made it their business to visit the out-of-the-way places, there would not be the cruising system that we enjoy today.

From the Region Chairman

First an apology. Because of personal problems this year and the added work entailed in the National Rally, I am afraid that I have not been able to attend many of the Branch events this summer. My Branch chairmen have kept me informed of their activities and success.

We have a very wide variety of navigations and of craft capable of using them, in our Region. In addition to the canal system at Oxford and Brentford we have many tidal or semi-tidal navigations and events have been held on the Medway, Arun, Adur and the Chelmer and Blackwater again this year. I don't need to remind you about our largest navigation, the Thames, and our editor's obvious attraction to it and its craft. A Thames Barge Sailing Match, particularly one held in restricted waters, is a spectacle to behold. *(It can be a bit hairy for the skippers, too. Ed.)*

Without doubt the Region's biggest event was the National at Brentford, and may I take the opportunity to thank those members who helped, in any way, to make the event the success it was. There are still some outstanding items to be finalised but a profit in excess of £14,000 is anticipated. It was a team effort and my thanks are due to the operation team members for their time and effort and also to our commercial sponsors. The contribution of our sponsors, British Waterways Board and enthusiasm of our hosts, the Borough of Hounslow was magnificent. Their park staff were very helpful and the Mayor, Councillor Brian Price, visited the site several times before the Rally to watch the build up of the boats as well as every day of the event. The London Ring Cruise, the weekend before, made a fitting curtain raiser and was very much appreciated by all participating boats. My thanks to the Branch and to St. Pancras Cruising Club who assisted with lock operating for the cruise.

With winter coming, it's back to Branch meetings and may I recommend these to those of you who do not normally attend. All Branches have an excellent and varied programme of speakers and deserve your support. Winter also means a resumption of committee meetings and on this score I am pleased to report a good response to my plea for volunteers for the Inland Shipping Committee. By the time this is published they will have held their first meeting and let us hope that as a first priority they can help to reverse the decline of the Thames as a commercial navigation.

Dave Moore

WINDLASS DATES FOR 1987

Issue 180, Copy by 20 January.

Distribution, 4 March.

Issue 181, Copy by 9 June.

Distribution, 24 July.

Issue 182, Copy by 20 October.

Distribution, 4 December.

WINDLASS ADVERTISING

Advertisements to be prepaid. Cheques to 'TWA', please to reach the Editor by deadline date.

Classified: £1.50 for 15 words. 8p per word thereafter. **Full page** £50, **½ page** £26, **¼ page** £17.50, **⅙ page** £13.50, **⅛ page** £7.

Distribution. Branch Secretaries can obtain additional copies of 'Windlass' from Dennis Cozens, 260 Boundary Road, Wood Green, N22. Telephone: 01-888 4646.

Will publicity officers and regular contributors note that copy dates are the very last dates on which copy can be accepted for inclusion, as in the past late copy has resulted in inconvenient delays to publication.

All contributions to be sent to The Editor, Richard Hugh Perks, Weald Cottage, Eastling, Faversham, Kent ME12 0BA
Tel: Home (079589) 603;
Office (0227) 470620.

Changes of address should be reported to Head Office and not to the Editor.

NOTICE OF BRANCH AND REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS—1987

The AGMs will be held as follows.

CHELMSFORD AGM—12 MARCH—AUEW House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, 8pm.

OXFORD AGM—Date and venue will be circulated separately to all members when arrangements for a new venue have been made.

KENT & E. SUSSEX AGM—25 MARCH—The Langham Hotel, Elphinstone Rd, Hastings, 8pm

HERTFORDSHIRE AGM—17 MARCH—Hatfield CC, Welwyn Garden City, 8pm.

LONDON AGM—19 MARCH—University College, Gower Street, London, 7.30pm.

SOLENT & ARUN AGM—20 MARCH—Fernleigh Centre, Chichester, 7.30pm.

GUILDFORD & READING AGM—16 MARCH—British Telecom S & S.C., Leapale Lane, Guildford, 8pm.

REGIONAL AGM—7 APRIL (Tuesday)—Hatfield C.C., Welwyn Garden City, Herts, 8pm.

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Apologies for absence. | 7. Adoption of Accounts. |
| 2. Minutes of the last AGM | 8. Report of Sub-Committee Chairmen
(if appropriate) |
| 3. Matters arising. | 9. Election of Committee Members. |
| 4. Chairman's Report. | 10. Appointment of Auditor. |
| 5. Secretary's Report. | 11. Any other business. |
| 6. Treasurer's Report. | |

Nominations for Committee Members should be in writing, signed by proposer, seconder and the nominee and **must** be received by the Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the appropriate meeting.

COVENANT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

You can help the IWA by covenanting your subscription. If you pay Income Tax, the IWA can, as a charity, reclaim the Income Tax that you have paid on your subscription. This will increase the value of your subscription by about half. The period of covenant is seven years, but if you resign from the IWA before this period expires, your covenant lapses and you are under no obligation to continue your payment.

In 1984 alone the IWA recovered over £12,500 from tax on covenanted subscriptions£12,500 more for the restoration and development of inland waterways in the IWA's continuing campaign.

'You know it makes sense'**DO IT NOW**.....

To: IWA, 114 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UQ

From:

Name

Address

Please send me a form to complete, as I wish to covenant my subscription.

BACKCHAT—by the Editor

CLEANING UP BRENTFORD—The recent Thames Barrier closure in October gave the opportunity to clear up the foreshores of the Brentford backwaters. IWA London Branch organised a working party to clear away the building debris and rubbish which had accumulated along the foreshore on a day which produced an exceptionally low spring ebb. Hounslow Council produced several skips and the PLA made available their lighter *Driftwood 1*. The Branch was well supported by people living locally and around 50 people turned out to assist in the operation.

NATIONALL RALLY SPIN-OFF—Following the National, Hounslow Council has asked for further suggestions as to how to improve the waterside of the Grand Union/River Thames. A long list of proposals has been submitted to them and we hope some of these will bear fruit.

A NARROWER REGENT'S—Work has now commenced on the narrowing of the Regent's Canal—and you all thought the object was to encourage expansion of waterways—where the towpath is being extended opposite London Zoo, to provide space for mechanical services or whatever. Earlier fears of a wide towpath which could seriously damage navigation can be allayed, and as a result of heated objections, the towpath width has been extended by an average of 0.8 metres and 1.2 metres at the greatest point. Still, it will provide an improved towpath for walkers.

CONGRATULATIONS—To Mike and Jenny Adams of *Silverlit* on the birth of triplets. Our very best wishes to them and to their new crew.

PROPOSED LIMEHOUSE BASIN AND BRENTFORD RE-DEVELOPMENTS—There are ominous silences on both fronts.

HISTORIC WATERWAY FILMS—Three historic films have now been put on video cassette by BWB. These are 'There go the Boats', 'Inland Waterways' (1950's) and a classic film of the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company which was shot in the 1930's. The video is available from BWB and from the Waterways Museum at £34.00.

TRIPS FOR THE DISABLED—BWB announces that it is offering assistance to operators of craft providing trips for disabled people. The object is to seek additional facilities that will enable easier access to waterways by the disabled. Assistance, although it is stressed it will be small, will be available to charitable or non-profit making concerns, and new projects such as provision of additional craft will be considered. This is good news as boating is a valuable means of providing recreation for everyone and IWA members have always taken a great interest in boating for the disabled. The Kent and East Sussex Branch of IWA raises money for an annual boat trip for the handicapped which takes place on the River Medway. The trip is paid for by members; and John Morgan, the Branch Secretary, would be pleased to receive any donations from *Windlass* readers.

LONDON RING CRUISE—Yes, Ron Bingham and Joe Busby did manage to get all the cruisers and narrowboats down the Regent's, through Limehouse and up the Thames to Brentford, all without too many problems. It was a first class weekend with good weather and the cruise was rated a great success by everyone.

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENTS—Two items of good news which are worth repeating here concern Welche's Dam Lock and the Montgomery Canal. Following agreement between IWA and Anglian Water Authority, the go-ahead has been given for the restoration of the Fenland Welche's Dam Lock and for the reinstatement of the section of the Forty Foot Drain to the already restored Horseway Lock. Meanwhile BWB has announced that a Private Bill for the restoration of the important Montgomery Canal is to be lodged in Parliament on 27 November.

WELL DONE—Well done everyone who helped to make our 40th Anniversary Year go smoothly. Branches organised some excellent events which helped put the name of IWA on the charts, on the Arun, Adur, Upper Thames, Wey, Basingstoke, Grand Union, London's Canals, the Lea and the Medway.

"WEY-SOUTH"—I am impressed with the Wey and Arun Canal Trust's revamped issue of "Wey-South", now entirely computerised. I like the layout, drawings and the very well reproduced photographs. It is a very good advertisement for the waterway they are seeking to restore. What always impresses me is the list of new members which the Trust publishes, no less than 31 of them in the last quarter.

DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS—Meanwhile among the mud and salts of the Thames Estuary in a part of the world where IWA is never too sure of its jurisdiction the 14th Annual Swale Smack and Sailing Barge Match attracted a great following of historic craft under sail, steam and engine. Steam was represented by *VIC 56* whose smoke cloud obliterated Whitstable, and historic power by several Dutch barges and Humber keels. One interesting entry was the narrow Dutch sailing barge *Vrouwe Maria Louise* which competed under sail. A very welcome surprise, just before the start of the race, was the arrival of Clive Wren who had brought his narrowboat *Dubhe of Woolwich* all the way round from London. (Clive, please contact the Editor of *Windlass* as he has a 'pot' for you.) The champion barge of the Match was the 94 year old engineless *Mirosa*; winner of the Oyster Smack class was the Mersea based *Hyacinth*. The following weekend, being the first day of the National at Brentford, the smacks raced to Greenwich for the Thames Oyster Smack Race, where honours again went to West Mersea and the *Peace*.

HAVE YOU READ?

As usual, when one thinks one has read all the waterway books there are always one or two 'oldies' around. Firstly, the **Long Wake** by Leslie Morton of the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company and later of Willow Wren. It is nothing to do with narrow-boating but it is an interesting insight into the character of the man who had the greatest influence over commercial carrying in inland waters during their last real years of trade. 'Gertie', as he used to be known, but I don't suppose his boatmen called him that too often, ran away from school at an early age and signed aboard the Cape Horn barque *Beeswing*, rounding the Horn on many occasions before eventually serving as a Sub.Lt. RNR during the Great War. The book was published 20 years ago when the late Robert Aikman persuaded him to set it down.

The Butty Boy by Jill Paton Walsh published by Macmillan in 1975 is a delightful tale of a young girl in a big house who feels hard done by and runs away on a passing narrow boat. The kids might like it, that is if they can snatch it away from their parents. The illustrations are superb.

VALETE

MARCUS BOUDIER — We were stunned to learn of the death of Marcus Boudier who was drowned near Middlewich, following an accident witnessed only by his small son Meirion.

Marcus would have been the first to concede that his boat *Drusilla* was a somewhat unusual craft, it was its very eccentricities that led him to found 'The Odd Boats Society' whose objects were:

To encourage the Use of Unusual Craft on Inland Waterways.

To encourage the Use of Craft on Unusual Inland Waterways.

To encourage the Unusual Use of Craft on Inland Waterways.

Not only did three members of the Society win individual awards at the Leeds National Rally but the Society itself won the prestigious Offley & Slack propeller.

Marcus and his wife Valerie (former London and Region Membership Secretary) were active London Branch IWA members, Marcus was virtually perpetual Harbour Master. Then upon Marcus learning that he was to be made redundant, the opportunity arose for them to start a new life. Leasing a canalside cottage on the Middlewich Branch, they set about the mammoth task of restoring it and the surrounding land and stable block.

It was characteristic of Marcus that, when we visited them this spring, he not only undertook to 'boat sit' for us but knowing the problems involved in 'weekending' a boat round the system, ferried us to Crewe station on a number of occasions.

Marcus with *Drusilla* had, often singlehandedly, travelled all over the waterway network, venturing up long neglected and semi-derelict arms and basins, his boat and his boating were reminiscent of the early pioneering days of IWA. For those of us who were privileged to be members of the O.B.S., worked with him at IWA events or accompanied him on Campaign Cruises, boating will never be quite the same without him and his beloved *Drusilla*.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his family, especially to Valerie and Meirion.

Donations in memory of Marcus may be sent to the IWA's National Waterways Development Fund, c/o London Branch or 114 Regent's Park Road.

Elizabeth Wood

BOOKS REVIEWED

Exploring the New River by Michael Essex-Lopresti, 64pp illustrated. Published by KAF Brewin Books, 13 Gunners Lane, Studley, Warwicks B80 7LX at £4.80.

Many IWA members have enjoyed hearing Michael's well illustrated talks on this fascinating waterway. Now he has set down a very detailed record of this 400 year old canal which was built to supply London with its water. The author traces the building of the New River and its early history and invites us to join him on an exploration from its source into London. The course of the waterway is shown on a series of carefully drawn maps. The author has researched his subject admirably and in doing so has produced a valuable contribution to our stock of knowledge.

SNOOPY (nearly) GOES TO SEA

It would be sensationalism to suggest we nearly lost John Gagg and the skipper and crew of the cruiser *Snoopy* at the end of the flotilla cruise on the River Adur in July but the epithet 'dramatic end to pleasure cruise' would not be all that much of an exaggeration even if we have become inured to Gerry Skinner's *Snoopy*.

Her tendency to do the unexpected is now awaited with resignation.

All went well on the cruise to Henfield. It was not until after the straightforward



Hauling Snoopy back up river

recovery of the earlier arrivals back at Shoreham, from a fast ebbing tide, did *Snoopy* contrive to ensure that everyone who was at Ropetackle will remember her presence on the river.

Having turned to breast the stream, reached the comparative slack at the water's edge and coming within perhaps 30 feet of the trailer she made her move.

What precisely happened then is still open to conjecture and certainly subject to debate.

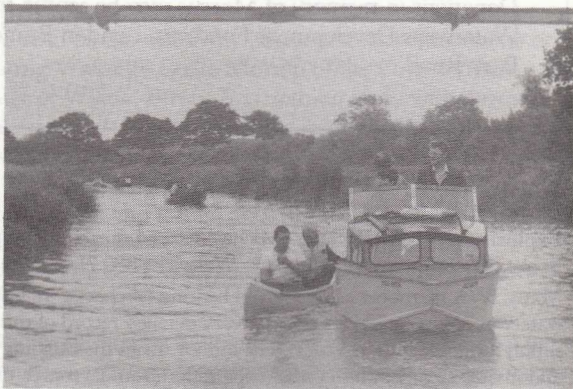
Within seconds of being secured by the shore party *Snoopy* was out in mid stream corkscrewing her way down the channel. Under the Worthing road bridge she straightened and, for long enough for optimists on the shore to believe she would make forward progress, stemmed the tide.

Not being an optimist I made my way towards the far side of the bridge where I felt the drama would continue. As indeed it did; the current hurled the boat at the bridge cutwater, staving the bow, thankfully above the waterline. At some point the combined tiller/throttle broke and a surging uncontrollable and unsteerable *Snoopy* emerged.

John Gagg told me later that at this point he wished he had brought his passport as it seemed clear that Le Havre would be the most probable next stop. By grasping the outboard between his arms and judging the direction by the water flow under the stern Gerry managed to steer to the shore and the willing hands of the recovery party.

There remained a fairly hairy hauling back to the slipway of which I will not tell at least in part because I'm not certain that we were wise to further risk accident. But I will, because I still feel angry about them, wish no good to the thieves who in stealing Gerry's engine a few days before the cruise, caused us to allow *Snoopy* to face the river somewhat underpowered on a borrowed, unfamiliar, engine.

Of course those who know Gerry's boat say that *Snoopy* would have done something spectacular in any circumstances.



Part of the flotilla cruise on the Adur

IWA NATIONAL RALLY, BRENTFORD

The National Rally brings out the best traditions in boating, the desire to navigate a boat the length and breadth of middle England to attend a waterways festival for no other reason than for three days in the year it happens to be there. It does not seem to matter where boats are based as the object is always to arrive at the National by means of the most roundabout route; Chelmsford to Brentford via Great Yarmouth is acceptable, so is a simple cruise from Twickenham, providing you have just come back from a cruise to Ellesmere Port. The Yarwood built narrowboat *Towcester* came from Yardley Gobian. Trevor Morley made only the briefest detour northwards to collect 20 tons of coal from Sutton Stop for discharge at Brentford. It is true that there were not quite so many traditional craft present as in former years, there being an urge among some of them to boat North to protest about the Anderton Lift.

Boats—narrowboats, short boats, pleasure boats, Dutch barges and canal cruisers—lined the banks of the Grand Union. We were treated to the view of this floating panorama from the platform of the fore-end of *Anker*, deftly navigated by Ray Butler (I suppose David and Elizabeth did know!) to enable us to photograph many of the entries. *Temperaire No 2*, *Lynx*, *Northwich* and the steamer *President*, *Kittiwake*, *Adele* and the 50 foot pair *Daniel* and *Jane*. Many were festooned with balloons; those aboard John Wheatland-Clinch's look-alike Dutch barge were, according to John's notice, 'to keep the boat afloat'. Larger craft were well represented; John Grainger brought the Dutchman *Zomerdroom*, 34½ x 11½ feet, built at Aalsmeer in 1967 and Edward Burrell and Pam Chapman brought the *Hoop op Zeghan* built back in 1898 at Hoorn, 48 x 11 feet; among the motorised Humber keels were *Olive* and Mike Thomas and Ali Taylor's *Reliance* which had been built by Harker's at Knottingley in 1933. Di and Tam Murrell were there with the Leeds-Liverpool short boat *Ribble* as we pulled in below Clitheroe's Lock while Di came aboard to have a chat with us. Tea was taken aboard *Harlequin*, the Church Army narrowboat, a Colecraft built in 1982, fitted out and operated by the Church Army's Hartley Youth Centre. On board we met Aidan, Nic, Liz, Rita and Mandy, who kindly provided us with tea and wads. Their boat proved something of an attraction, perhaps because it was crewed by some exceptionally pretty girls. (I'm sorry if you missed this, Ray, you were at the Teddy Bears Picnic.)

The Trade Show, worthy of a county show, this year (well done Richard Bird and team) was over towards the motorway, separated from the boats by the longest cricket square in existence. Pity they couldn't have found a waterside site. We could have done without the roundabouts and amusement fair and we could certainly have done without the piped music which ruined life for many of the stall-holders. Branch and Society stands were a credit—why is it that the 'old lags', the lunatic element of the system, always seem to congregate around Bryn and Doris' stall. Some of them we only seem to meet once a year. It was good to see Robin Chester-Brown again, still working away on uncovering more of the vanished history of the lost BCN canals.

The Rally was opened by Dr Alan Robertson, Deputy Chairman of BWB, who were our principal sponsors, who told us that 'the mood between us is one of friendly animosity!' Now that's an improvement. There were several speeches, and messages

were read from the Lord Mayor of Oxford and others by a natty gent wearing an interesting line of antiquarian apparel (I've seen him riding his motorbike in that get-up). The most pointed words came from our new Regional President, when Illtyd Harrington reminded us that it was our duty to care for the splendid system handed down to us by people of the 19th century.

The Rally was not without its snags. Overworked, is a good word to describe the Committee. They could have done with a lot more volunteer help and this lack of assistance placed too heavy a burden on the hard workers. Car parking and site directions were abysmal; thanks to Ealing Council wanting a thousand quid for a car park, some of us had to park several boroughs away. Perhaps IWA is considered too respectable. The announcer got his what-nots in a twist with several exciting variations on the name of David Balgrove, or was it Belgrove, and one day I must try to visit the Kenton and Avon Canal.

As for suitable additions to the 'Single Bolinder Song' there was nothing quite so sophisticated as the occasion when two seven foot wide boats successfully entered one of the Stort Locks breasted-up; we still don't know how they got them out. It was left to the National Chairman himself to provide an opening for the next verse of this song. I will be delighted to publish a suitable stanza describing how he got locked in the bog on the Rally site. Being the National Chairman he does things in style, and waited until the doors of the Porta-Loo were firmly locked and ropes had been fixed around the handles before shouting for help. We cannot wait to see what Ken Goodwin is planning for Hawkesbury.

**THAMES
MOORING
WANTED
for 44' narrowboat
SIMCO 4**

Regular Summer Mooring
May to September
each year

Upstream of Marlow

Would consider purchase

**R. F. SIMS
129 MEADOW WALK, EWELL
EPSOM, SURREY KT19 0BP**

WALKING THE REGENT'S

Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti continues his popular series of walks along the Regent's Canal. There are no walks in December or January. Meet at Camden Town Underground Station.

Walking to Islington at 2.30pm on Sundays 1 February, 5 April, 7 June, 2 August, 4 October, and at 6.15pm on Tuesday 16 June, and 18 August.

Walking to Paddington at 2.30pm on Sundays 1 March, 3 May, 5 July, 6 September, 1 November and at 6.15pm on Tuesday 14 July.

Each walk lasts about 2 hours and walkers contribute £1.50 for IWA funds. Michael has now raised several thousand pounds for IWA from his walks and we hope that members will continue to support him.

BRANCH NEWS AND NOTES

OXFORD AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH—*Report by Ray Powell*

Chairman: Bert Pettitt, 2 Rowan Drive, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. Telephone: Swindon 853100.

Secretary: Mrs Pam Pugh, 10 Vanner Road, Whitney, Oxon. Telephone: Whitney 71138

BRANCH REPORT—The 1986 Autumn programme got off to a good start on the social side. We had a very successful visit to the Black Country Museum and Singing Cavern in the Dudley Tunnel at the beginning of September, followed by an even bigger success later in the month with the Barbeque at Nell Bridge House Farm and Art Gallery organised by Pat Brown, which attracted over 100 people. Thanks are due to Don Davis and his wife for the use of this marvellous venue beside the Oxford Canal. If only those hundred or so would support the Branch and Section meetings each month.....

There have been some changes in the Branch Committee, Joe Kennell who has been on the committee for many years is moving north and has therefore resigned. Our thanks are due to Joe for his contribution and we wish him well for the future. A small memento was given to Joe, a glass which had been hand painted by one of our members, which we hope will remind him of his friends at Oxford when he looks at it. Pat Brown a stalwart of both Branch and Banbury section, again over many years, has also resigned from the Committee although we are pleased she will continue to support the Banbury section activities. Our sincere thanks are due to Pat for all her hard work over many years and for which the Banbury section owe a special debt for the monthly meetings.

The problem over the venues for the monthly meetings which have affected the Bucks section and the Oxford branch over the past two months are now hopefully over the Bucks, but continue to afflict Oxford. We were optimistic that Oxford would be able to return to the Sports and Social Club but this has not proved possible and as a result Oxford branch are now domiciled at the Red Lion, Oxford Road (A423, off ring road), Kidlington, Oxford. Unfortunately this has meant a change in dates, all dates moving forward by just one day to Thursday in each case. See details below for Branch and Section meetings.

March is not far away when we hold the Oxfordshire and South Bucks Branch AGM. Anyone who would like to help in our activities and wishes to be nominated as a Committee Member, please contact our Branch Secretary, Pam Pugh.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Oxford Section: Meetings at The Red Lion, Kidlington, Oxford. 8pm.

19 NOVEMBER. London Canals—Farrand Radley.

11 DECEMBER. Cheese and Wine Evening.

15 JANUARY. The Mon and Brec Canal—David Fanning, IWA National Publicity Officer.

12 FEBRUARY. Friesland Adventure—Bill Fisher.

12 MARCH. Annual General Meeting

9 APRIL. Film Night.

14 MAY. To be arranged.

Banbury Section: Meetings at the 18-30 Club, Spiceball, Banbury. 8pm.

25 NOVEMBER. An evening with canal artist, Alan Firth.

11 DECEMBER. Christmas Cheese and Wine at Oxford.

27 JANUARY. Cheese and Wine Social.

24 FEBRUARY. Annual General Meeting.

Bucks Section: Meetings: Bailey Room, Crown Hotel, Amersham. 8pm.

20 NOVEMBER. Thames Locks and Weirs—Brian Rogers, River Thames lock-keeper.

(Meeting in Market Hall, opposite Crown Hotel)

11 **DECEMBER.** Christmas Cheese and Wine at Oxford.

15 **JANUARY.** Lee and Stort—John Boyes.

19 **FEBRUARY.** Annual General Meeting, followed by a selection of waterway slides presented by Bob Cotton, Director of Leisure, BWB.

19 **MARCH.** Caledonian Canal—Andrew Dawson.

16 **APRIL.** Birds Eye View of the Thames—Christopher Stanley.

GUILDFORD AND READING BRANCH—Report by Brian Percy

Chairman: Brian Percy, 21 New Road, Marlow Bottom, Bucks. Telephone: Marlow 4575

Secretary: Neil Morley, 10 Gosden Road, Westend, Woking. Telephone: (04867) 4759

GUILDFORD WEY FAYRE—It appears that this event increases in popularity more and more, and looks like becoming an annual event, for details please see article elsewhere in *Windlass*. The sum of £1,300 was raised and the Branch Committee would like to thank all those who took part and helped run the event. If you feel like helping out again next July, Dick Harper-White on Weybridge 42074 would like to hear from you.

LOCK ONE (Basingstoke Canal)—After a lot of hard work and effort over, believe it or not, the last ten years, the work on the lock is nearing completion, apart from the lock gates, which we will have to wait until the pound above has been dredged before fitting. Coping stones are in place and the area is beginning to look like a lock again. Thanks to TWA dredging the channel up to the bottom coffer dam, boats can, and now do, reach the lock, however as there is no winding hole, one has to be rather good at steering half a mile backwards.

NATIONAL STEAM AND SMALL BOAT FESTIVAL, FRIMLEY 87—This falls into our Branch area, details elsewhere in *Windlass*, it looks like becoming a quite large and interesting event and if you feel like giving us a hand on the days, 13 and 14 June, please give Tony Davis a ring on Weybridge 44261.

MEETINGS—Members of the Branch should have received a copy of them in the post at the beginning of October. If, by some error, we have missed you out, please contact the Secretary, who will be pleased to send you a copy, and get our records straight.

Our first meeting in October was a joint meeting with the Surrey and Hants Canal Society and very well attended by over 250 people who heard David Hutchings speak on the Higher Severn and River Avon. During the event, the Byfleet Boat Club were presented with a painted Buckby Can in recognition of their help at the Wey Fayre.

BRANCH MEETINGS

12 **DECEMBER. Friday.** Xmas Get-Together. At the Blue Anchor, Byfleet, (above restaurant)

26 **JANUARY. Monday.** John Gagg will give a talk with slides. At the British Telecom Social Club, Leapale Lane, Guildford.

27 **FEBRUARY. Friday.** Tim Wheeldon will give a talk with slides on the Somerset Coal Canal. This is a joint meeting with the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust. Southcote Library, Coronation Square, Southcote, Reading.

13 **APRIL. Monday.** Joint meeting with W&A Canal Trust. Speaker to be announced. Kings Arms, High Street, Godalming.

All meeting timed for 8pm start.

BASINGSTOKE SECTION MEETINGS

16 **DECEMBER.** Social Evening.

20 **JANUARY.** Talk on 'Wey and Arun'. The White Hart, London Road.

17 **FEBRUARY.** Towpath Travels—Mark Ferdman. The White Hart, London Road.

17 **MARCH.** The R.S.P.B.—Talk. The White Hart, London Road.

21 **APRIL.** AGM. Followed by a film.

All meetings timed to start at 7.45pm.

SOLENT AND ARUN BRANCH—Report by Alan White

Chairman: Alan White, Wheel House, Pottery Lane, Nutbourne, Chichester. Telephone: Bosham 573765

Secretary: Mrs Linda Peirce, 46 Hillcrest Drive, Ashington, Pulborough. Telephone: 0903-892254

BRANCH MEETINGS

29 JANUARY. Joint meeting with Wey and Arun Canal Trust. 7.30pm. St. Mary's Church Hall, Ilex Way, Goring-by-Sea

20 MARCH. AGM. 7.30pm. Fernleigh Centre, North Street, Chichester.

HON. AUDITOR

Mr. J. C. Grant, who has acted as our Honorary Auditor for the past five years has been forced to withdraw due to ill health. We wish him an early and complete recovery. However we are now looking for someone to take over his duties. Our Treasurer keeps accurate and balanced books so the work involves only a few hours work each year. If anyone having the necessary qualifications would like to help, please contact me.

WORK PARTIES

The Solent and Arun branch does not run a work party but some members join those of the Chichester Canal Society and the Wey and Arun Canal Trust. Now that your garden is going into hibernation and the cricket season is over, why not spend Sundays out in the damp Sussex countryside helping to maintain the towing path of your local canal. It is the ultimate remedy for winter 'stuffiness'. Contact us for details on how you can catch you death....

RIVER ADUR CRUISE

Readers of Branch news will be aware of the battle between developers and residents of Shoreham to save adequate slipway facilities at Ropetackle on the River Adur. With the redevelopment plans passed but by no means certain to proceed we were particularly pleased to have the opportunity to take the Chairman of the local council on our flotilla adventure cruise to the navigable limits on the river. The number of small boats using the slipway (not all part of our cruise) must have impressed the need for facilities to be retained, indeed, improved.

With a Spring tide behind it, our flotilla made rapid progress upstream, in due course enjoying a picnic at the Henfield fork. Our sales officer, Peter Pesterfield took his canoe over the stop planks and continued up the little navigated eastern arm to a point where even a small craft could not venture further.

For everyone else the 'adventure' on the return was first facing the powerful ebb current through the narrow sections at Beeding and then threading through the maze as dead ended channels began to emerge from the rapidly draining mudflats north of Old Shoreham Bridge. Observers on the shore had the amusement of watching boats suddenly turning, sometimes even back upstream in a desperate attempt to find the main channel.

It was our Hon. and Social secretaries, Lyn and Roy Peirce who were entrusted to show the delights of boating to the Council Chairman and his family. Facing the possibility of having all night to discuss the role of water based leisure activities in modern society, Ray decided on an alternative strategy when he found himself grounded; he jumped off his boat and, an nonchalantly as it is possible to be when one is not sure how deep in the mud the next step will sink, hauled his cruiser to deeper water.

The other boats were generally smaller and therefore more easily taken through the emerging banks. One notable exception was *IWASA*, the Committee dinghy (given to us by the Wey and Arun Canal Trust) which returned so late we were beginning to wonder what the insurance value might be. One exception was *Snoopy* whose story is best told elsewhere, if indeed told at all.

The odd thing is this: we try to attract the general public by proclaiming that flotilla cruising is a way to minimise the risks of boating on the river but once again only Solent and Arun committee member skippered boats had any trouble. So just who is looking after whom?

CHELMSFORD BRANCH

Chairman: Mrs Molly Beard, 241 Benfleet Road, Benfleet, Essex Telephone: 554492

Secretary: Ken Wood, 39 Linley Crescent, Romford, Essex. Telephone: 65504.

BRANCH REPORT

IWA 40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER—To celebrate the Association's 40th anniversary the Branch arranged a buffet dinner on board the *Victoria* on the Chelmer and Blackwater. The guests of honour for the evening were the Mayor of Chelmsford, the Chief Planning Officer for Chelmsford, and our Region Chairman, Dave Moore.

IWALK—The Branch will be holding a further sponsored walk in 1987. Watch the next issue of *Windlass* for further details, but in the meantime mark Sunday 7 June in your diaries.

TROPHIES—Four of the Association's National Trophies are now residing in the Branch area. Roy Cox brought two back from the National Trail Boat Rally at Droitwich; the 'BWB National Trailboat Award' for boat handling and The 'John Heap Rosebowl' for the boat club with the greatest number of boats present. (Roy is also chairman of Cara-Cruiser Club). Charlie Stock won the 'Peter Scott Challenge Trophy' for the greatest distance to the National Rally on salt water, and the 'Guinness Trophy' for the most enterprising and meritorious voyage by an unpowered craft.

MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the AEUW House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, at 7.45 for 8pm (sharp).

11 DECEMBER. Christmas Social meeting

8 JANUARY. The Middle Level—David Stevenson

12 FEBRUARY. The Wilts and Berks Canal—Neil Rumbol

12 MARCH. AGM and slides.

9 APRIL. Canal Architecture—John Boyes.

14 MAY. The Basingstoke—Stuart Chrystall.

KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH—*Report by David Strivens*

Chairman: Ian Dempster, 16 Dixwell Close, Gillingham, Kent. Telephone: 0634 35627

Secretary: John Morgan, 49 Hillbrow Road, Ashford, Kent. Telephone: 27594

BRANCH REPORT

After a quiet Summer the Branch got going again in August with an afternoon visit to the restored Water Mill at Chilham, near Canterbury. Some thirty members and friends were shown around the Mill by Ron Stainton, a former Branch committee member and an employee of Mid Kent Water who now operate the mill, extracting water from the River Stour for Ashford.

Next came the National at Brentford, where a dedicated team manned the Branch Sales and Games Stalls. Two heroes were on site for the entire four days, having to cope with the downpour on the Bank Holiday Monday as a Grand Finale.

Our first evening meeting of the season came in early September, perhaps too early, at Southborough near Tunbridge Wells. We were only able to attract a smallish audience for a fascinating talk by Mark Baldwin, transport and industrial archaeology bookseller and publisher,

At the end of September we paid a return visit to the Kennet and Avon, now in an advanced state of restoration of course, and we were able to take a boat trip from Crofton to add to our previous gongoozling on this wonderful cross England waterway.

Finally, in early October we held another of our popular Member's slide show evenings at a new venue at Faversham. Attendance was much improved and to add to the more usual canal and holiday slides, we had the benefit of Hugh Perk's sailing barge and barge people archives.

A very fitting subject for Faversham, of course.

BRANCH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

3 DECEMBER. Christmas Social at The Imperial, London Road, Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells. 8pm till 11pm.

30 JANUARY. Morgan's Canal Miscellany at the Kent Arms, near Ashford, Kent, Railway Station. 8pm.

26 FEBRUARY. History of the River Medway by local author, David Smith. The Imperial, London Road, Southborough. 8pm.

25 MARCH. Annual General Meeting, to be followed by 'Reminiscences of my Life Afloat' by William Attenborough. Venue is The Langham, Elphinstone Road, Hastings. 8pm.

LONDON BRANCH—*Report by Marion Waters*

Chairman: Eric Garland, 39 Valence Road, Erith, Kent DA8 3JT. Telephone: 0322 342296.

Secretary: David Allison-Bear, 61 Winkley Court, East Coate Lane, South Harrow, Middlesex.

Telephone: 01-864 3798

MEETINGS—All meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Old Refectory, University College, Gower Street, London WC1. Entrance, including car park, in Gower Street—one way, North-South. Well stocked Bar.

15 JANUARY. A boat trip through Alsace (France), Switzerland and Bulgaria—Hugh McKnight

19 FEBRUARY. Commercial Carrying in France and Belgium—David Blagrove.

19 MARCH. AGM. Followed by Brentford 1986—A. Farrand Radley.

16 APRIL. Whittaker Tankers in the Aire and Calder; Lime Juice on the Grand Union; and, A Humber-side Cruise—Keadby to Goole—Mike Herniman.

BRANCH REPORT

London Branch has been quite busy over the last few months. Starting off with the London Ring Cruise which took place over the Saturday and Sunday, 16 and 17 August. About 72 boats took part in the journey from Little Venice, along the Regent's Canal to Limehouse Basin where they gathered for the evening in anticipation of the early morning tide. The first batch of boats entered the Ship Lock at Limehouse at 8.30am and made their way along the Thames past all the famous landmarks to pass the Houses of Parliament at 8.45am. Following along was the second batch of boats which had locked out of Limehouse shortly afterwards. All made their way to the National Rally site at Brentford to await the activities on the following weekend.

During the week between the Ring Cruise and the National Rally, a Thames Punt (lighter), freshly painted in IWA colours was rowed and towed from Greenwich to Brentford where it was on display during the Bank Holiday Weekend.

The London Branch contribution to the National Rally, apart from its sales stand, was of course a Teddy Bears Picnic, which was staged on the Saturday afternoon. Activities to keep the children amused included colouring, storytelling, singing and races. Prizes were awarded to the Best



Limehouse Basin—boats awaiting the morning tide onto the Thames. Photo—Marion Waters

Dressed Bear, Best Culinary effort (two classes—one made on board and another for home baked), Bear to travel the greatest distance (again two classes—one by boat on inland waterways, the second by any other means) and lastly for the Best Colouring done during the picnic.

Then on 6 September. Thamesday was upon us once again, to which the faithful took the branch stand and wallowed in the luxury of a small marquee virtually to themselves. The Barge Race attracted attention to the IWA with our entry being rowed valiantly by its team. Having come through in first place points were deducted for touching a bridge on route putting us in overall second place. As always Thamesday was a great success with many displays on the river and a great deal of entertainment, the firework display in the evening was rated the best ever.

It would be impossible to list everyone who put in time and effort to make all the above possible, but our thanks to everyone who contributed in anyway.

PONTOON STORAGE—Storage space is needed for our pontoon. It is approx. 18' x 6' and we can arrange delivery. Security is more important than the location which could be in water or on land. It would be, preferably, a long term arrangement with it being collected occasionally for rallies, etc. Any offers of storage space to Marion Waters. Work telephone: 01-626 8331.

HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH—*Report by Michael Wright*

Chairman: Barry Martin, 7 Northridge Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2AE

Secretary: Beryl Martin, Telephone: Hemel Hempstead 54031.

BRANCH MEETINGS—held at the Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City (near the Queen Elizabeth II hospital) at 8pm. on the third Tuesday of each month, (except July and August).

16 DECEMBER. Commercial carrying on the Grand Union Canal. Archive film show by John Morin. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING.

20 JANUARY. Members Slide evening. (Make your views known).

17 FEBRUARY. Hire Fleet Operation. Mr. Giles Baker, Anglo-Welsh.

11 MARCH. GUCS joint meeting at Hemel Hempstead. (See Branch Report below).

17 MARCH. Branch AGM, followed by, A journey from Napton to Bingley, with Ian Fletcher.

7 APRIL. Regional AGM, followed by, Trail Boats, with Ron Martin, (Secretary of Caracruiser Club).

21 APRIL. Miss Francis Read, BWB London Area Leisure Officer, talking about the British Waterways Board.

19 MAY. Dr. Roger Squires—'The Droitwich Canal'.

BRANCH REPORT—Already the evenings are drawing in and by the time this report reaches our readers, the committee will want to wish them a merry Christmas and hope the weather has not deteriorated enough to ruin our Branch meetings.

It is with great pleasure that we were able to welcome John Gagg to Welwyn on 16 September, when he gave a most enjoyable tour of old waterways corners, which developed into a 'spot the difference' competition and then a 'where are we now' competition, finishing up at that now hopefully famous totem pole. We were able to welcome a few new faces and hope even more will appear as the year progresses.

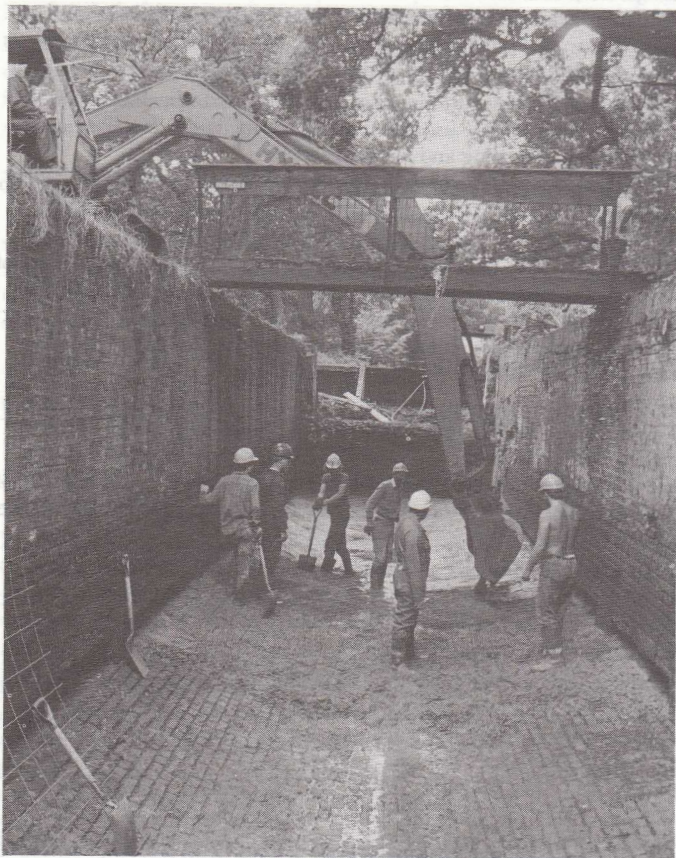
Did you receive the newsletter and 1986/7 programme for the Herts Branch meetings? Have you read about the 'Data Protection Act'? Have you got around to covenanting your subscription? Have you read the article in *Waterways* 147 on the Herts Branch? Did you see the picture of your overworked committee? Answers on a postcard to the Chairman please, or complaints to the Secretary.

On a more serious note, we are pleased to say that the Branch has made a donation of £170 to IWA members representing the Association in the London Marathon. The money raised will be used for the footbridges on the Caen Hill flight of locks at Devizes on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal Restoration—*Report by Peter Cooper*

Besides the activities of the Summer Work Camp, mainly at Locks 2 and 3 at Woodham and Locks 7 and 8 at St Johns, restoration activity on the Basingstoke Canal has continued on a number of other fronts. The IWA-sponsored working party at Lock 1 at Woodham have now only a single figure number of jobs to do to finish, and the locally based party at Lock 4, having rebuilt both chamber walls, are now working on the various ancillary walls.



Volunteers on the 1986 Basingstoke Canal summer work camp concreting the invert in Lock 2 at West Byfleet. Photo—Dieter Jebens

There is a lot to do for completion in 1988, but the task is being actively tackled on many fronts.

The July Work Camp on the Basingstoke, organised jointly by the Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group and the S&HCS, and assisted by WRG and the Surrey County Council, produced a splendid team of 90 volunteers. The main centre of activity was at West Byfleet where work concentrated on starting to restore the remaining two derelict locks.

The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society's lock gate working party has now started work on the gates for Lock 8 at St Johns, and is 'breathing down the necks' of the lock chamber restorers on the St Johns Flight. The other major volunteer effort is dredging in Hampshire, where steady progress has now taken the dredger past Poulter's Bridge, en route for Fleet.

The SHC's team of full time workers are doing a major refurbishment of Woodend Bridge at St Johns, and Lock 12 at Brookwood has progressed considerably, following the efforts of several groups.



EAST HERTS FESTIVAL '87

18th APRIL 1987

SNAP People's Theatre Trust, Millars One House, Southmill Road,
Bishop's Stortford Herts CM23 3DH
Telephone: (0279 504095)

The East Herts Festival is proud to present the Bishop's Stortford Penny Fair and Transport Rally which will take place over the whole of Bishop's Stortford on the weekend of 18 April 1987.

The East Herts Festival is taking place between 8-18 April 1987 and will feature over 200 community and professional companies making it one of the largest outside of Edinburgh.

Highlights of the Fair and Transport Rally will include a River Rally on the Stort organised by the Lee and Stort Development Committee, a procession of vintage transport through Bishop's Stortford, static displays of working machinery, an 'It's-a-Knockout' competition, craft fair, mini fun-fair, a street fair and lots more.

There will be plaques for all members of participating transport and river organisations. For further details please contact David Read at the Festival Office, telephone Bishop's Stortford (0279) 504095.

1987 National Steam & Small Boat Festival Basingstoke Canal

Preparations are already well under way for a national Steam and Small Boat Festival to be held on the Basingstoke Canal at Frimley Lodge Park, Camberley. It takes place on 13-14 June, and will enable owners of trailable boats not only to explore over 20 miles of the most attractive lengths of the restored navigation, but also help to publicise the target date now set to complete restoration in 1988.

Organised by the IWA and the S&HCS, the festival also heralds the opening of a new 50 acre recreation park, between Mytchett and Frimley Green, created by Surrey Heath Borough Council. The Council is contributing £1,500 towards staging the festival.

As well as seeking to attract a record number of boat entrants, the organisers are planning a host of canalside attractions to interest and entertain visitors to the festival, and help raise funds.

Boats owners wishing to join in this major event of 1987 are invited to write (enclosing SEA) for an entry form and details to: Adrian Birtles (Entries Officer), 58a High Street, Twyford, Berks.

Festival Director, Tony Davis, is appealing now for volunteers from IWA to help run the Festival. He requires a strong organisation to assist with the running of this major event, so please put your name down for a job, however small. Contact him at: 4 Mount Pleasant, Weybridge. Telephone: (0932) 44261.

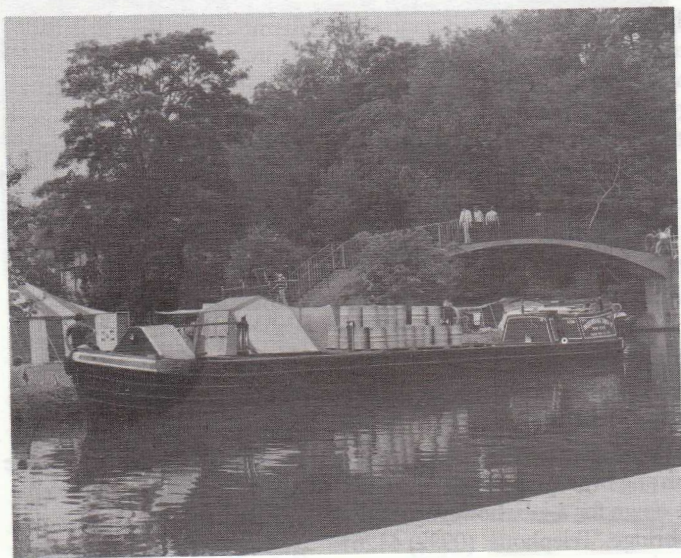
GUILDFORD WATER-WEY FAYRE 1986

For the second successive year, the river Wey at Guildford proved to be a popular venue for the waterside events forming part of the Guildford Festival in July. There was a gathering of some 80 boats, sideshows, entertainments and a grand fireworks display. Invaluable help was provided by *Alton* of the Narrowboat Trust in transporting essential supplies (including the beer) to the site which was inaccessible to vehicles. The event, organised by the Guildford and Reading Branch, was again well supported by the public and a number of local waterways restoration projects will be among those to benefit from the proceeds.



Narrowboat Alton laden with a cargo of beer for the Guildford Water-Wey Fayre in July.

Photos—Ray Carnell



(‘CANAL & RIVERBOAT’ Magazine donated this sticker)

13th & 14th JUNE 1987

IWA

**National Steam and
Small Boat Festival**



Frimley Lodge Park • Frimley Green • Surrey



Boat Entries to Adrian Birtles, 58a High Street, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9AQ

(please enclose s.a.e.)