

WINDLASS



**SOUTH EAST REGION
INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION**



Photo—Roy Squire

**Brownings Pool—Little Venice—Paddington
Canalway Cavalcade—May 1989**

June 1989

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JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION



Inland Waterways
Association

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Editorial—*Michael Stimpson*

I wonder what people think about the South East Region, its activities and responsibilities. Judging by the attendance at this year's AGM, the answer to that question is possibly "not a lot".

Because of the way the IWA is structured, it is necessary to have a region representing groups of branches, whereas the individual member is actually a member of the IWA and for membership purposes he or she is allocated to a branch based on the part of the country in which he or she lives, although, of course, it is possible to belong to any branch and any member is entitled to visit any branch meetings in any area. Each branch at its AGM elects a Committee, the head of which is a Chairman, who is meant to represent the branch's view to Council.

It is clearly obvious, however, that it would not be possible to have a Committee comprising of such a large number of people made up of the Chairman from each branch together with all the specifically elected National Officers, and, therefore, the branches are grouped into regions and the Region Chairman is elected to represent the view of the members of those branches within the region to Council.

As it would obviously be unfair to load two lots of work on to one Branch Chairman (i.e. the work of being Branch Chairman and also the work of representing the views of five or six branches to Council, a Region Committee comprising of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer etc., obviously has to be elected.

It is, therefore, the Region's job to pass on to Council the views of the membership via the Branch Committees, and to iron out the occasional dispute between branches on an impartial basis and, finally, to pass on the results of Council meetings to the branches where information is required or discussion needs to take place.

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This is an important working part of the IWA, but, of course, the Region as such has no members. Nonetheless, it was most disappointing to attend the Region AGM to discover that none of the members attended and that only one branch was officially represented.

Most appalling part of the whole event was the fact that our National Chairman travelled all the way to our Region to address our meeting and had no one to address. Perhaps the answer is not to have separate region AGM's in future but to simply tack them on to a normal branch meeting somewhere in the region.

Turning now to matters outside of the IWA, members will be delighted to hear that the British Waterways have taken a decision after two years of Committee meetings with relation to lock gear. For many years the Board have been looking at replacing all of our paddle gear with hydraulic equipment, and waterway users have been split into two groups, those who realise that the hydraulic paddle gear has many disadvantages from the safety point of view and cost, and those who support the hydraulic paddle gear through ignorance and the belief that it is easier to operate. The simple fact is that hydraulic paddle gear is no easier to work than well maintained traditional rack and pinion paddle gear, although it must be said that there is little well maintained paddle gear on the system to allow a direct comparison.

The bad news is that the Committee in their wisdom have decided to standardize on the size of spindle being used in the equipment, and I only say bad news due to the fact that they have decided on a size which is not currently in use.

This means that on the Grand Union, as an example, at the present moment, we have two sizes of spindle, hence the normal use of a twin-headed windlass. This windlass will not fit the new paddle gear and thus you will have to have a three-headed windlass or carry separately one of the new windlasses (which are yet to be manufactured) during the change-over period where you are likely to come across all three sizes and your existing windlasses will be useless once the transformation takes place.

One benefit at least will come from the change once it is finally complete and that is that we will be able to use the entire canal system and carry one single headed windlass with us, but it does seem to me that it would have been suitable to have selected one of the existing sizes, and I do understand that the size selected by the board will require far more maintenance and more frequent replacement than the existing types. Of course, it does mean that every single piece of lock gear will require amendment to the system and, therefore, the decision is wasteful of public money, and as a taxpayer you may wish to contact your MP and complain about the waste of public funds in this instance.

The Board have, however, to be congratulated on part of their decision, and I suppose we must be grateful for what has been achieved.

I also understand that the decision to take out side ponds and gate paddles is to be reversed and have heard that the side ponds will only be able to be used by experienced boat owners, although how the Board expect to police this I do not know. Perhaps you will be able to take a proficiency test in using side ponds, as they cannot simply say you can use the side ponds if you are a boat owner, as it is quite clear that the hire boater who has regularly spent three weeks a year hiring boats over the last 15 years will have far more experience than the person who has just bought a boat and never been on a boat before in his life.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the very kind people who have contacted me to congratulate me on my efforts with *Windlass*. I can assure you it has been more luck than judgement, but I learn more with each edition.

Stop Press

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Bert Pettit, Chairman of Oxfordshire Branch. We extend our condolences to his wife and family.

It is the family's wish that any tributes be in the form of donations to The Prospect Foundation Hospice, Swindon.

Region Chairman's Report—*David Moore*

Writing this I am reflecting the past two months during which time I have attended all but one of my branch and annual general meetings (my apologies to Guildford members—other IWA engagements meant I was not able to get to your meeting!).

My overall impression is of a lot of work which is being carried out very effectively by the Branch Committees aided by a small number of other members, and most committees seem to be adequately staffed, although there are one or two who could do with some extra assistance—how about enquiring of your local Branch Chairman if you can be of some help.

You can, of course, help your Branch Committee in many ways, not by serving on the Committee but perhaps assisting a Committee Member if you have some time you can devote but are unable to get to committee meetings.

Most branches have a reasonable attendance at their meetings, but more members are always welcome and it should be borne in mind that we are the largest region with more than 5,000 members (excluding wives and families) so there are an awful lot who do not participate in any way at all and are possibly missing out on a number of very interesting meetings. Of course, I am not asking you all to volunteer to help, indeed if you did we would not be able to use all of you, and neither am I suggesting that we do not need and appreciate all our members, but I would like to encourage a few more of our non-active members to participate in the association's activities just by attending the local branch meetings occasionally. Of course, if you brought friends with you who were not members that would be an added advantage as they may consider it worthwhile joining, and if we could just attract another 1% that would be 50 members plus wives making 100 new members or sixteen per branch, assuming, of course, that they were all married.

Let this be our aim for the forthcoming year, for each of us to encourage, attract, welcome an extra member to our activities.

The above was to be part of the text of my address to Region AGM at Rickmansworth BUT!...

Where are all 5,000 plus of you—the attendance was so poor that we were not quorate and the meeting had to be adjourned.

A reconvened meeting was called in accordance with the Constitution, at which the official business of the Region was conducted, and at the subsequent region committee the existing officers agreed to stand for another term, although I would not have blamed any of them if they had refused to seek re-election.

I know region is a peculiar animal and that most of you consider yourselves first members of the IWA, second branch members and only finally as region members, but under our Constitution regions DO exist and, as such, your Region Committee do I think deserve support, and I feel sure that this situation will not happen again!

To more pleasant matters, I attended London's Canalway Cavalcade on Saturday 2 May, when I had the pleasure of presenting Dr. Michael Essex-Lopresti with the John Heap silver salver in recognition of the funds raised over the past 12 years by his Regents Canal walks.

Canalway Cavalcade was its usual success and was much enjoyed by visitors and entrants alike, notable visitors to the event included the British Waterways Chairman, David Ingman, and Sir Hugh Rossi.

The same week-end saw Kent and East Sussex Branch's annual dinner served by trainee stewards at the Naval School at Gravesend, which again was very congenial and my thanks for the invitation from the branch.

Hoping to see you at some of the Region's other events or branch meetings in the forthcoming year and, finally, don't forget I need some assistance at Waltham Abbey in August—give me a ring.

South East Region Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South East Region of the Inland Waterways Association held at 8 pm on Tuesday 4 April at the Scout Hut, Ebury Road, Rickmansworth.

Present: David Moore, Michael Stimpson, Ken Goodwin, four members of the Region.

Apologies for Absence: There were none.

The Region Chairman declared that the meeting was not quorate and, in accordance with the bye laws, adjourned the meeting and announced that it will be re-convened at AEUW House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, at 8 pm on Thursday 13 April, being the next Branch Meeting to be held in the Region.

Minutes of the adjourned Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13 April 1989 at AEUW Hall, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford.

Present: David Moore, about 70 members of the Region

David Moore explained that the AGM scheduled for 4 April had been inquorate and, in accordance with the bye-laws he had announced at that meeting that it would be adjourned until 13 April at Chelmsford, being the next branch meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Kenneth Goodwoon, Brian Freshney, Michael Stimpson, Barry and Beryl Martin, Molly Beard and Roy Cox.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 1988 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David Moore said that his address to the meeting was to have been on the subject of participation by Members. However, the lack of attendance possibly expressed the point clearer than he would have done. His address would now form the major part of his article in the next *Windlass*.

It just remained for him to thank his Committee Members, the Branch Chairman and Committees of the Branches for their work over the past year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Mike Stimpson had been unable to attend the re-convened meeting, there was no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian Freshney was out of the area on business and David Moore explained the audited accounts, which were then put to the meeting and formally adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The present auditor was willing to continue to act on behalf of the Region, and accordingly it was proposed and agreed that Mr. C. T. H. Rollin was appointed as auditor for the coming year.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

David Moore, Ron Martin, Mike Stimpson and Brian Freshney were due to retire by rotation. All had been proposed in accordance with the bye-laws to re-attend and as there were five vacancies they were declared re-elected.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS—None

The meeting was then declared closed.



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Waterways News

On 18 April the Board issued notice that many flights of locks were to be closed on the Grand Union Oxford Canal between 1800 hours and 0800 hours the following morning until further notice. The locations were Foxton, Watford, Braunstone, Buckby, Knapton and Claydon, and they announced that despite recent rainfall a number of reservoirs are still lower than they should be for the time of year, posing potential water shortage for later in the year, and therefore, restrictions on the use of locks were being imposed and it should be borne in mind that entry into the flight of locks could be earlier than the times for the closing of the flight.

The new British Waterways Board South East Region is established at its new premises at 99 Langley Road, Watford, and the new canal managers for the various sections are as follows:

Dick Ives for the Lea and Stort, who can be found at the Board's offices at Enfield Lock.

Mark Benstead for the London Canals who will be found at Norwood Top Lock.

Ray Callow for the Grand Union Canal South who will be found at Watery Lane, Marsworth, Nr. Tring.

Simon Ainley for the Central Area of the Grand Union Canal located at Gayton Yard.

Ian Marmont for the Oxford Canal at Priors Marston.

The Board have drawn attention to incidence of Weill's disease, and have also advised that following lengthy negotiations with staff and Trade Unions relating to the manning of power locks on the River Lea, the hours for this summer will be 0830 to 1830 Monday-Friday and 0830 to 1230 Saturdays and Sundays, and these arrangements will be in force until September.

The Board have issued a new booklet called "*The New Boater's Guide to the Waterways*". This revised guide incorporates all the details previously held in the information circular regarding use of locks, but is also a comprehensive source of general and stoppage information for boaters, with full details of British Waterways new Regional Structure. *The New Boater's Guide* presents information region by region and then waterway by waterway within that region, including names and addresses of Region Waterway Managers, the maximum dimensions of craft able to navigate each waterway, with the opening times of locks and bridges where these are restricted, and useful contact numbers.

Finally, as mentioned elsewhere in *Windlass*, the Board have announced the fact that they intend to retain traditional paddle gear.

The Board state that they have accepted the principal recommendations made by the Lock Gearing Consultative Committee that traditional lock gearing should be retained but they state that the spindles and windlasses should be standardised.

The Consultative Committee was set up in 1987 and consisted of nominated representatives of waterway users, the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council, the Inland Waterways Association and British Waterways.

The Committee recommended the retention of traditional paddle gearing wherever possible, subject to the achievement of acceptable levels of safety, maintenance and ease of operation, and the standardisation of spindles and windlasses in accordance to an agreed specified design and the modification of retaining pawls. It is unlikely that the work will be completed for several years because of the scale of the task and boaters are advised to acquire the new standard windlass recommended by British Waterways once these become available from manufacturers, as non-standard windlasses of any type will not be recommended for use in the future.

Award for Towpath Walks

Thirteen years ago Dr. Michael Essex-Lopresti started what has become a very popular series of walks along the towpath of the Regents Canal and in recognition for having founded the walks and their continued popularity, he has been awarded the John Heap Silver Salver, which is one of the Inland Waterways Association's major annual awards.

Through these guided walks over 3,500 people have been introduced to London's Canalway, and although not a primary aim of these guided walks, a substantial sum of money has been donated to the Inland Waterways Association's funds raised through the contributions of those taking part.

The presentation was made at the Canalway Cavalcade which was staged at Little Venice over the May Day Bank Holiday by the London Branch of the Inland Waterways Association.

Those wishing to participate in the walks during 1989 should meet at Camden Town underground station and walk to either Islington past St. Pancras and Islington Tunnel to end up at The Angel underground station, or, for the Paddington Tour, past the zoo, Maida Hill Tunnel and eventually finish up at the Warwick Avenue underground station.



*Dr. Michael Essex-Lopresti receiving his award from David Moore
Photo—Roy Squire*

The walks leave at 2.30 on Sunday and 6.30 on Tuesday evenings, and

for the Islington walk you should meet on the 4th June, 6th August or 1st October for the Sunday afternoon tour or the 13th June, 11th July or 8th August for the Tuesday evening tour, and for the Paddington trip the 2nd July, the 3rd September and the 5th November for the Sunday afternoon tour and the 27th June, 25th July and the 22nd August for the Tuesday evening tours. Each walk lasts about 2 hours and you are asked to donate £2 for IWA funds.

Members may also wish to note that Dr. Essex-Lopresti has written a book entitled "*Exploring the New River*", which is the 400-year old non-navigable canal which carries water from Hertfordshire and Middlesex through North London, and carries 38 million gallons of water per day.

Perhaps non-navigable is not strictly true, as you can often see little maintenance punts tied up at various points along the river, but anyone who knows it will know that the clearance for the bridges is more suitable to ratty and his friends than to human beings. The book is £5.95 and has been published by Berwin Books, Doric House, Church Road, Studley, Warks. B8E 7LG.

BRANCH NEWS AND NOTES

CHELMSFORD BRANCH—*Report by John Gale*

Chairman: Roy Cox, 276 Long Lane, Grays, Essex. Telephone: 0375 376655

Secretary: Ken Wood, 39 Linley Crescent, Romford, Essex. Telephone: 765504

BRANCH MEETINGS

Chelmsford Branch meetings are now over for the winter season and so until September the formal programme of branch meetings is over. However, the branch are planning some informal meetings during the summer season, and the intention is to meet at The Old Ship at Haybridge Basin on the second Tuesday of June, July and August, although it must be borne in mind that these are totally informal gatherings and absolutely nothing is arranged, and no room is booked, and the meetings are on a “noggin and natter” principle. If the meetings are well supported then consideration can be given for continuing this idea for future years. The Branch are drawing up a good and varied programme for the next winter season and more news of this will be in the next edition of *Windlass*.

IWALK will be happening as *Windlass* flops through your letter box and if you receive this *Windlass* prior to the 4 June please come to the Chelmsford IWALK.

Last seasons talks were well attended and the topics ranged from Waterway Recovery Groups to British Waterways Board and from the Rochdale through to the Wey and Arun and from Chelmer and Blackwater to Canada, which sounds a very funny route. The attendances at the meetings has gradually grown until 70 was the norm, and we have also tried two meetings at Harlow which have resulted in a few new faces amongst our regulars, and we are continuing these Harlow meetings next season, so if you live in West Essex or East Herts we would love to see you.

If you are prepared to help in organising meetings in Harlow, or would like to do anything else to help the Committee, or, indeed, if you would like to assist the Branch generally, please contact the Chairman, Roy Cox on 0375 376655 or Ken Wood, the secretary, on Romford 765504.

KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH—*Report by Angela Madle*

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

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

BRANCH REPORT

Here we are once again with the report for *Windlass* from the Kent and East Sussex branch, and by the time you read this we shall have enjoyed our Club dinner at The National Sea Training College at Gravesend, which is a joint venture with the Thames and Medway Canal Association, whose waterway runs not 20 yards from the College doorstep. The Canal Association have their open day June 18 at Mark Lane, Gravesend. On the day after the dinner our team took the branch stall to its first outing to Whitbreads Hop Farm and Museum near Paddock Wood.

At the beginning of March we had a joint meeting with London Branch at Orpington, and everyone enjoyed a show and talk by Garth Allen, the watercolour artist. It was a very well attended meeting and everyone seemed happy with the results.

In May we had the first of the boat trips which we have arranged for handicapped persons on the River Medway and the second one this year will be on the River Stour from Grove Ferry near Canterbury, and we are also having a trip on the same boat, The Reneroy, for branch members on the 4 June, starting at 11 o'clock. Anyone interested in joining this trip should contact me on at 56 Windmill Street, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent ME2 3XH.

LONDON BRANCH—Report by Marion Waters

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

Secretary: David Allison-Beer, 29 Bridge Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2QP

Telephone: Uxbridge (0895) 38523

BRANCH MEETINGS

Social evenings for the autumn season are open to everyone irrespective of whether they are IWA members and are held on the third Thursday of every month (with a few exceptions) The meetings are at The Old Refectory, University College, Gower Street, London W1. There is car parking within the grounds and surrounding roads, one way traffic follows north to south down Gower Street. Meetings start at 7.30pm but the room is open from 6.30pm. A full licensed bar is available throughout the meeting.

22 JUNE. Canal Restoration in the 21st Century—Michael Handford

1 SEPTEMBER. A British Waterways official answers your questions.

19 OCTOBER. River Stour Trust—Doreen Barrett

16 NOVEMBER. Avon Trust—David Hutchings.

14 DECEMBER. Fund Raising Auction and either a slide show or quiz evening.

CANALWAY CAVALCADE—With 160 boats moored in Little Venice for Canalway Cavalcade during the Mayday Bank Holiday week-end, the area was positively brimming with activity. The weather was in our favour, which brought out the crowds for our best attended event to date, and the Committee was very pleased to see so many boats entered in the pageant, especially those who used so much imagination in decorating their boats.

The trophies were won by the following people and boats, whom we congratulate. The Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy for the best privately decorated boat in the Pageant was awarded to *Outlaw* owned by Brian Saunders and Friends of Waterways in London. A highly commended was given to runners up *Fulbourne* and London WRG. The Cruise Electric Trophy sponsored each year by the London Electricity Board for the best privately illuminated boat was awarded to R. Sheppard and *Paragon*. The Westminster Trophy, sponsored by the Westminster City Council for the boat handling competition, was awarded to *Lahdra* owned by G. Thorne. British Gas were winners of both the best commercially sponsored boat in the pageant and the best commercially illuminated boat aboard *Panacea*.

Over 100 boats were booked into the event of all types, sizes and ages and the Rally took place over the three days of the Bank Holiday. The highlights of the week-end were Saturday at 2pm, the official opening by an official of the Westminster City Council, the Chairman of the British Waterways Board, David Ingman, and the National Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association, Kenneth Goodwin, all of whom were introduced by the Town Crier, Peter Moore.

The pageant of commercially sponsored and decorated boats entered the Pool of Little Venice at approximately 2.30 and then they passed along the Regents Canal past London Zoo and on to Camden Lock, where they turned round to make the journey back to Little Venice.

On Sunday afternoon, at 3 pm there was a Teddy Bear's picnic, which was open to all children who wished to bring their bear along for a small tea, and a prize was awarded for the best dressed bear given by Paddington Bear himself.

After the appetizing boaters barbecue provided by St. Pancras Cruising Club there followed at 9pm on the Sunday evening an illuminated boat and torchlight procession around Little Venice, followed by a firework display. On Monday morning Ken Barton's

Jazz Band played whilst a model boat display and the finals of the canoe competition were held.

A special mention must go to all the volunteers who turned up and helped by programme selling, manning the branch stand and other numerous tasks, and extra special thanks also go to Ken Parish, Sue and Roger Burchett and all of the KESCRG folk who helped with all of those numerous tasks which we normally never have time to cover, not to mention the number of nervous breakdowns they must have saved.

Turning briefly to other matters, the London Branch Committee was delighted that, having nominated Dr. Michael Essex-Lopresti for one of the Association's National Annual Awards, that this nomination was accepted in respect of his organising the canal walks along the Regents Canal for many years, and the John Heap Silver Salver was presented to Michael by David Moore during the Canalway Cavalcade.

With the National Rally coming to Waltham Abbey it has been decided to take the opportunity of having a campaign cruise of the Bow Back Rivers. This will be on Saturday 19 August, and no doubt it will be the shortest cruise ever to have taken place, due to the present condition of the waterway. A plaque will be issued to boats reaching their goal; the fine details will be published in *Canal and Riverboat* and *Waterways World*, so please bring your boat if you are able to participate in this event.

Our thanks to British Waterways Board for completing the works in connection with the rebuilt towpath on the Rembrandt Garden side of Little Venice, which were completed in time for the Canalway Cavalcade Rally. As this is intended to be praise, I will not go on about the heavy plant left by contractors on site or the fact that they did not clear up the main towpath.



Photo—Roy Squire

Some of the craft in Brownings Pool, Little Venice, Paddington during the Canalway Cavalcade over the May Day holiday 1989

SOLENT AND ARUN BRANCH *Report by Ray Peirce*

Chairman: Ray Peirce, 46 Hillcrest Drive, Ashington, Pulborough, West Sussex

Telephone: Ashington (0903) 892254

Secretary: Alan Dyer, 7 Wembley Gardens, Lancing, West Sussex. Telephone: Lancing 750879)

BRANCH REPORT

The Solent and Arun Branch members have, no doubt, been scanning the previous pages and noting with interest the activities which other branches are able to organise and your own may come as something of an anti-climax.

The answer is simple, we desperately need new Committee members with fresh ideas and new enthusiasm.

The majority of the present committee have been in office since the branch was formed 11 years ago and, frankly, we are stale.

We want to take a back seat, if you will not allow us to, we shall have no alternative but to let the branch run down and die.

We do not regret those years, we have forged firm friendships with people we would otherwise never have met, been to events we would never have dreamed of going to and been forced to exploit talents we never knew we had.

Being a committee member is not at all dull, so come on, don't be shy, lift up the phone and ring me on 0903 892254 (evenings) or 0903 892700 (day time).

One idea our old brains are toying with is a cruise on the River Hamble on Sunday 7 September, when we would launch a flotilla of small boats at Warsash and cruise to the head of navigation for a pub lunch and return. Anyone who is interested please contact me, as above.

GUILDFORD AND READING BRANCH—*Report by Peter Collins*

Chairman: Brian Percy, 2 Fir Tree Way, Fleet, Aldershot, Hants. Telephone: Fleet (0252) 625939

Secretary: Neil Morley, 1 Whin Holt, Fleet, Hants GU13 9TS. Telephone: (0252) 616989

BRANCH REPORT—During the 1988-89 season of our winter get-togethers we had a very interesting and enjoyable series of talks on a number of topics, which included Thames Development for the Boater, the Oxford Canal, The French Canals and The National Waterways Museum at Gloucester. All of these talks were held at the Wey Cruising Club, to whom we express our thanks for such impressive facilities.

Looking to the future, on the 10-11 June we have the small boat cruise on the Woking stream of the River Wey, the aim of which is to maintain the right of navigation and to visit the site of the old Woking Palace. Details of this trip from A.G. Davis, 4 Mount Pleasant, Weybridge, Surrey, telephone 09328 44261.

In July on the 8th and 9th, the Wey Navigation Festival is being held at Guildford as part of its annual Festival, and there will be a full supporting programme of waterside activities on the island site opposite Guildford boathouse, where there will be plenty for people to see and do, with craft stalls, trade stands, waterway society displays and side shows, as plenty of musical accompaniment.

Turning now to other branch matters, local publicity in both the press and TV has helped the branch to draw attention to the potential of a new overhanging towpath at a building development in Central Guildford.

On the River Wey, the National Trust has increased the 1989 licence fees by 10% and it claims this was justified in order to recoup some of the back VAT last year.

Looking forward to 1990, it is probable that a summer rally will be held at Godalming sometime during the year.

The Surrey and Hants Canal Society trip boat *John Pinkerton* is to be based at Colt Hill, Odiham, until 8 October and fares remain at £2 for adults and £1 for children.

It is expected that the Basingstoke Canal will be officially opened in May 1991 and work should be completed by the spring of 1990, when it is hoped that the canal will be open for navigation.

A new boat club is proposed and 80 people were at the inaugural meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Boat Club held on 27 March, when a constitution was formally agreed. A good programme of events was established and any trail boat that visits the Basingstoke Canal is most welcome to join in, and any canal boat owner who is interested should contact Robin MacGregor-Grieve on 0252 628131.

A new guide will be published in July entitled **Lea and Stort Valley Guide**. With articles on Lock Working, Eddies in History, the Lea Valley Park, Natural History, Angling and Walking, it is a must for all members. Detailed Navigation Notes are provided and places to visit en-route are identified. Beautifully illustrated by Jan Hiller, the guide will be on sale for £3.95 (inc. P.&P.) for a limited introductory period. Cheques payable to Lea and Stort P. & A. Forum. Available from Eric Rogers, 'Bethony', Cradle End, Little Hadham, Ware SG11 2EH. Tel: 0279 658585.

PUBLICITY—Will publicity officers dealing with both branch affairs and events please ensure that copy is sent to *Windlass* well in advance of copy dates. Immediately after an event has taken place a write-up should be sent to *Windlass*, preferably with a good black and white photograph. All contributions to be sent to: **The Editor, Michael Stimpson, 149a High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1AR. Telephone: 0923 770425 Fax: 0923 721559**

**INLAND WATERWAYS EXHIBITION at the
IWA WALTHAM ABBEY NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL
26, 27 and 28 AUGUST 1989**

The major exhibition for those interested in the Inland Waterways is being held near Waltham Abbey on the Lee Navigation. Applications for floating, covered and outside space welcomed from organisations wishing exposure to the canal and river, boating and accessories markets.

*For details and application form contact: Richard Bird
23 Porcupine Close, Mottingham, London SE9 3AE
or tel 01-609 5745 (daytime)*



GP. GRAPHICS

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Wey and Arun Canal Trust

News is much and varied from the Wey and Arun, and our Guildford and Reading Branch report that on 8 and 9 July the Wey Navigation Festival will be held at Guildford and the usual large gathering of canal and river craft plus a full supporting programme of waterside entertainment is looked forward to. Details of this were given in the March edition of *Windlass* and special attractions this year include a genuine vintage fairground organ, steam train rides on the Saturday and the Lions Festival raft race on the Sunday afternoon with the illuminated boat competition and a grand fireworks display on Saturday evening. The event is being sponsored by Barclays Bank, and is part of the annual Guildford Festival.

The Wey Navigation National Trust has its 25th anniversary this year and is being illustrated by an exhibition to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Trust taking possession of the Wey navigation.

There will be an exhibition of pictures and photographs covering the last 25 years on the River Wey, which is being held in the Surrey Local Studies library at the library building in North Street, Guildford, which is open during normal public hours from early June until the end of July.

In this context we have a photograph of our own sent in to *Windlass* by Alan Yates who states that he took this photograph in 1937 at Loxwood on the Wey and Arun canal and remembers that he was exploring the canal on his bicycle at the time.

Finally, the Wey and Arun Canal Trust is using poddles to restore the Wey and Arun Canal but dog lovers can put down their pens as, in fact, the poddle concerned is the Billingshurst Poddle and the poddle refers to a poddle along the towpath rather than the canine variety. The

event is being held on Sunday 11 June and it will follow, by kind permission of local landowners, five miles of the old Wey and Arun towpath all the way from Loxwood to Newbridge near Billingshurst. Many parts of this route are not normally open to the public and, therefore, it will be an opportunity for members interested in this waterway to investigate its route and, therefore, this is not just another sponsored walk (this is how poddles help the Canal Trust!—it's a money raising event!).

The emphasis is that it is not another boring sponsored walk but the fact that the poddle represents an enjoyable day out in the countryside investigating the route of the canal, as mentioned above, giving a unique opportunity to do so without trespassing.

The circular 15 mile walk features remote parts of the Sussex countryside and refreshments are provided at intermediate points, including a ploughman's lunch.

A detailed map and guide is provided and a real ale bar is provided at the lunch stop (*but does this mean anyone will finish the walk!*—Ed.). The funds raised by the poddle will be going towards the cost of an electric power boat to give public cruises on the restored sections of the canal and connecting waterways and walkers can take their own time over the route starting at Weald School at Billingshurst near the British Rail station between 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 11th June.

Presumably those wishing to listen to The Archers will start the walk fully equipped with Walkman and earphones.

Further details and sponsor forms are available from Ken Bacon, 9 Brookfield Way, Billingshurst, RH14 9AU, telephone Billingshurst 3372.



National Waterways Festival

The National Waterways Festival is being held at Waltham Abbey within the region this year and plans are now well advanced for this event. If you have not already booked your boat in and wish to do so then you should contact Mr. H. D. Walker of 50 Francis Road, Windsor, Berks. SL4 3AH who will be pleased to send you an entry form. If you are prepared to assist with the Rally in any way over the Bank Holiday week-end then please contact David Moore, our Region Chairman.

The Festival have specifically made an appeal for any old iron, which does not mean scrap metal, but has similar connotations. Attention is drawn to all boat owners attending the National Waterways Festival and also to anyone else attending or who is able to contribute.

What they are looking for is items which can be sold, swapped or given away and what they are asking all members (and indeed anyone) who will be at the Rally to do is to find in those boxes stored away in your boat or garage, full of "bits and pieces that might come in handy one day" which in fact never have and probably never will. You know the sort of thing, one odd navigation light, a mushroom vent from your old boat, the tiller pin bought but which the wife does not like—well now is the chance to dispose of all these things surplus to your requirements, although we do not accept husbands, wives, children or pets.

It is planned that in the Festival Newsletter, which is being published and given out to all boaters and traders at the National, the items for sale, swap or simply not required can be listed and all you need to do is bring them with you and take details of the items, your name, boat and mooring number to the publicity office by 3.30 each day for inclusion in the next day's newsletter.

The first edition of the newsletter will be sent to boaters in June with boaters pack, and if you would like a mention in either the June edition or the Saturday morning edition, please send you copy to Marion Waters, 5 Harpenden Road, Wanstead, London, E12 5HJ.

The Association has received a boost for the next two National Waterways Rallies from Inland Waterway Insurers, Michael Stimpson and Associates of Rickmansworth, who have agreed to be one of the sponsors for the Waltham Abbey event this year and for Gloucester in 1990.

Other sponsors for the Waltham Abbey Event are Volvo Penta U.K., of Watford and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

The Gloucester event next year is being held close to Gloucester Docks and it will be especially appropriate to Michael Stimpson and Associates, as they insure the historic craft on display at the National Waterways Museum at Gloucester as well as the other historic craft owned by British Waterways at their museum at Stoke Bruerne.

Information about the Trade shows for both Waltham Abbey and Gloucester can be obtained from Richard Bird at 23 Porcupine Close, London SE9 3AE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

David Allison-Bear, who, as certainly London Branch Members will know, is secretary of London Branch, has moved and wishes everyone to alter their address books, file folders and computers accordingly. He has now moved to 29, Bridge Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB8 2QP, and his new telephone number is Uxbridge (0895) 38523.

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MESSAGE TO LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS

I am sorry that your issue of Windlass has been delivered late. It was hoped that a further edition of Excalibur would be published in time to accompany the region magazine. Alas this was not so:-

The problems faced in producing Excalibur are symptomatic of the branches problems; there are not enough people to help out.

To ensure the continuing success of the branch magazine it will have to be self financing - which means selling advertising. We need someone who will sell advertising space for us as well as a roving reporter to find additional articles. I must apologise to those contributors who sent items for the magazine which have been held over for a second time. We are able to get Excalibur printed at extremely competitive rates by WRG Print but we do need a team who will collate, pack and post the finished article.

You will know that the branch has a major sub-committee, Plannav, which looks after the navigation, planning and liaison interests of the branch. Although we have increased the strength of this team recently, we are short of a permanent Chairman, Secretary and Planning Officer. Specialist knowledge is only required for the latter post, expertise can be picked up by the committee's routine work. Meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday and new members will be warmly received.

The branch organises every year the most successful non-national rally in The Association's calendar, Canalway Cavalcade. This committee is also short of a Chairman, Secretary, Rally Director and Entertainments Organiser, as well as help in all other departments. We are gradually seeing our traditional financial backers reducing their contributions and it will be necessary in future to find sponsorship for most aspects of the rally that make it such a friendly and financially worthwhile gathering.

Without the contributions from both our committees we would not be able to campaign for the preservation of our local waterways. Currently we are fighting the proposed 'Arklight' project being considered by B.W. and the London Zoo. Basically the proposals are for a 'Son et Lumiere' presentation to be paraded along the canal through Regents Park on 20 summer evenings a year.

Our main objections are twofold:-

1. The canal will be closed to navigation during the procession and it is the Association's long term aim to restore the right of navigation lost in the 1968 Act. 'Arklight' could not be proposed if a right of navigation existed and we object to the closure of the canal, for however short a time, for commercial reasons. B.W. have already stated that if the scheme is a success it will be extended to other 'suitable' locations. We see this as the thin end of the wedge, how long will it be before any Riparian owner or business interest requests closure to navigation for their private use in return for a fat fee.

2. Part of Cumberland basin will be taken over to house 'Arklight's' floats under cover. Some of the boats currently moored there will be transferred to new offside moorings at Maida Avenue between the tunnel and Little Venice. Already there are two rows of boats moored to the towpath side and the navigable width will be considerably reduced. It is inevitable that with wide beam craft navigating this stretch some form of traffic management will have to be introduced. It is branch policy to discourage towpath moorings and improve access, yet the existing Blomfield Road towpath moorings are being improved, making their early removal a remote possibility.

The branch has produced a boat sticker protesting about 'Arklight' and its intrusion into an outstanding conservation area. It is hoped that all boats using this pound, including all those attending the national, will prominently display them. A further protest on the canal is being planned, in conjunction with other events in the Park, on 17th September.

Our other campaign is the bow back rivers cruise on 19th August which protests at the state of these remainder waterways. We will probably prove they are barely navigable even for the smallest boats. Any boat that does manage it will be eligible for a certificate produced by the Lee & Stort Rivers Society. A new guide to the Lee & Stort has been produced which can be obtained price £3.95 (post free till August 31st).

The last plea for help is for the branch sales and display stand which visits many events, waterway and non-waterway. The next event will of course be the National at Waltham Abbey and offers of help in manning it will be much appreciated.

To end on a more happy note, after the success of our trip to the Rochdale and Huddersfield canals during the spring, we are organising a trip this Autumn. The date is 23rd September and the venue is the Black Country Museum where the Annual Boaters Gathering is being held over that weekend.

Further information, offers of help etc., can be obtained from The Secretary, David Alison-Beer,
29 Bridge Road,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex
UB8 2QP

Tel: 0895 38523

or myself on 0322 342296

Eric Garland
London Branch Chairman