

Excalibur

**THE LONDON NEWSLETTER OF
THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION**

NUMBER 10, SPRING 1993

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Canalway Cavalcade is nearly on us again. At the 1992 event this was the winner of the Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy for the best privately-entered decorated boat.

This year's Cavalcade is previewed on pages 6 and 7.

Photo: Mike Stevens

From the Editor

ALL CHANGE!

Re-organisation dominates this issue. Within IWA, London has at last achieved Region status. This gives us direct representation on IWA Council, independently of the chance that London members sit on Council in other capacities. It also gives us the opportunity, as we work towards dividing the new Region into a number of Branches, of continued progress in bringing Branch activities closer to those members who don't find Central London meetings convenient.

The opportunity also exists of escaping from the trap of a few people each doing a lot of jobs, so that new members are diffident about joining in because of the size of the commitment involved. As we set up first Section and then Branch Committees in different parts of London, we can arrange the work as a lot of little jobs rather than a few incredibly big ones. But that needs people to come forward to take a share. The Branch AGM is one opportunity for some new faces to offer themselves. (I did mention in the last issue that I'm keen to give up as Minutes Secretary: no response so far. It's not a big job in itself, but just one *more* thing to do.) To help us decide how to split into Branches, and to know who's willing to take on some of the new, smaller jobs, please fill in the questionnaire in the middle of this issue and return it to Sue.

BW is also re-organising locally: on page 9 we re-print, and comment on, an interview given by their Regional Manager, Peter Coyne.

A BUSY SEASON

Whenever BW mentions the 'cruising season' we all protest that the canals are used all the year round. But BW's approach is becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. They think in terms of a 'season' and arrange their stoppages accordingly, so more of us each year opt out of the complex game of 'dodge the stoppage' and do less winter boating. Christmas this year was a disappointment, with problems on the North Circular Aqueduct preventing some of us coming into (or out of) London for Christmas. But whatever we think about a 'cruising season', there certainly is a clearly defined 'Rally Season' (with a few noble exceptions like the hNBOC Christmas Rally and the Birmingham Icicle Cruise). In our area it all seems to happen in the first half of the Summer, from May to July. So there's lots of coming events previewed in this issue, many of which are part of BW's *Canals 200* programme.

Canalway Cavalcade takes pride of place as our own major annual event: it is previewed in detail on pages 6 and 7. This is now under the auspices of London Region rather than London Branch, which does not make any practical difference at the moment, merely changing who the Cavalcade Committee reports to. But we thought it important for the future that, when we divide into a number of smaller Branches, an event as big as Cavalcade can draw on people and skills across the whole of London to make it a success.

Two other events in which we have an involvement are outlined on page 12. The Late May Bank Holiday weekend presents an embarrassment of choice, with the Limehouse event, the Wendover Arm Festival, the National Trailboat Festival and the Braunston Boat Festival all on at once. There are clear advantages in timing a Rally for a Bank Holiday weekend, and just not enough Bank Holidays to go round. If the Government goes ahead with its proposals to do away with the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, or to move it to a different time of year, we shall have an interesting decision to make about Canalway Cavalcade. But there's this year's event to enjoy yet. See you there!

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

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From the Region Chairmen: The Old ...

Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* opens with the words 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'. The phrase aptly sums up my two years as a region chairman. I could even call this article a Tale of Two Regions!

Most of you will be aware that the final restructuring of the IWA in the South-East is now complete, with the formation of the London Region, and South-East Region now covering Chelmsford and Kent and East Sussex Branches. I wish both of the regions well and I am sure they will continue to thrive. Although I was honoured to be asked to be Chairman by both regions, I felt it was time for a change; that does not mean I am giving up my activities, just realigning what I do. In conjunction with your Region Chairman I will be reporting and saying thank you at your AGM so I will not anticipate that here. Instead I shall look forward to the potential changes to the waterways that may hopefully (?) occur in the next few years.

The second reading of the BW Bill is expected shortly. The legislation will be very different from the Bill originally published in 1990. Although still flawed, it will on balance benefit

the waterways. We also expect to see the London Docklands Development Corporation Bill. They propose to become another navigation authority with their own standards. What happened to harmonisation?

In Chelmsford, Springfield Basin will soon be reopened. I congratulate the local branch on this. Whilst there is conservation area protection for the locality, this does not stop planning applications that just consider the waterway as an ornament for expensive buildings. Why is it that local developers are not interested in waterways until volunteers have spent their time and money on restoration and improvement?

I am sure that when I die they will find the North Circular Road Aqueduct emblazoned on my heart. In the past few months I have inspected the site once or twice a week. I look forward to the day when we can cruise into London from the West. Anybody want to bet that it will be open on time?

I have written before about the Bow Back Rivers; the House Mill's opening to the public this summer will be the first stage of the creation of a significant destination point. With the potential for synergy with the already open London Canal Museum at Kings Cross we could see a revitalisation of the waterways through London.

In Kent we hope that the next few years will see major progress with the Thames and Medway restoration. If the outcome of the local public inquiry is positive, its reconnection will be a reality in a few years. Reconnection to the Medway may take a little longer.

There is much for us to look forward to.

David Allison-Beer

... and the New

I am writing to all members of IWA in Greater London wearing my new hat as your Region Chairman.

You are no doubt aware of the changes that have been made to the old South-East Region which originally had seven branches. The members of that region only had one voice on Council which was by no means proportional to membership numbers. In many ways the old South-East Region had one big advantage in that it included most of the BWB South-East Region, but IWA had to take steps to bring the Council representation of the membership in the South-East to a par with the rest of the country.

The first step was to set up the new Grand Junction Region, and we lost Herts Branch to them. Subsequently the six branches of the South-East Region split into two, one half becoming the Thames and Southern Region (shortly to be re-named Central Southern Region). This still left the South-East Region (with three remaining Branches, London, Kent and East Sussex and Chelmsford) with more members than any other region: indeed London Branch on its own had more members than some of the regions and so, with effect from the beginning of this year, London Branch has left the South-East Region to form the new London Region.

At the present time therefore, we are in the odd position of having a one-branch region. However, over the last eighteen months your Branch Committee has actively looked at new locations for social meetings to assess the possibility of forming new sections which can eventually become branches. It is hoped over the next few years to develop these into successful groups which will mean that some members will not have to travel so far to attend the social meetings. Due to the vast size of the London area and despite the relative ease of transport that we possess, the percentage of the membership attending social meetings has always been low, although many meetings have been well-attended.

The election of the region Officers and Committee is reported elsewhere in this issue. You may ask why the London Branch Committee did not merely rename itself the London Region Committee. This is, of course due to the fact that we are working to the point in time where we have more than one branch within the Region.

The London Branch Committee recommended that planning matters within the Region should be dealt with by a Region sub-committee rather than being dealt with on a geographical basis by the new branches when they are set up. This has been ratified by the Region Committee: when you've got something good, why alter it?

I currently wear two hats as I continue as South-East Region Secretary until the next AGM. In January the old South-East Region Committee met for the last time socially when we had a meal together at a well-known wine bar near 114 Regent's Park Road: a sort of farewell dinner. On your behalf may I thank all of the members who have served on the South-East Region Committee during its period of the three-branch structure, and also wish the South-East Region, as it now stands, well for the future.

Mike Stimpson

The House Mill

THREE MILLS, LONDON E3



The House Mill (left) and Clock Mill at Three Mills. The latter has been converted into offices

A derelict tidal mill bridges the mud of Bow Creek in East London. It has been idle for fifty years and it leaks. Large portions of the timber framework are damaged by rot and its ironwork by rust. No machinery works, and much of what was there has disappeared. Restoration costs could total several million pounds, yet the House Mill at Three Mills is being restored by an independent trust aided by the European Commission, Government City Action Team, Newham Council, English Heritage, Lea Valley Park, Bass plc, Tesco plc, East London River Initiative, the Prince of Wales' Business in the Community Group and most recently the Inland Waterways Association. The Mill was a key project in a successful 1992 City Challenge bid for grants of £37.5m over five years.

There are more reasons for preserving the Mill than there are supporters of the project. The cartouche high on the front wall bears the date 1776, the year the United States declared independence. It was three years before the iron bridge at Ironbridge and Nelson's flagship the *Victory* were completed. The Mill shares similarities with both national treasures. Part of the Mill resembles the lower decks of a wooden man-o'-war. The machinery links medieval and modern milling. The move from manual control to automated production can be discerned in the process of evolving. Patterns of architecture and construction that hardly changed in centuries can be traced in transition.

The House Mill is thought to be the most powerful tidal mill ever built. Its four water wheels survive. They were powered on the

ebbing tide of the Thames. As it rises, a tide in the North Sea, forty miles away, pushes back the Thames and then its tributary the Lea to a point just above the Mill. Damming the river at this point combines the maximum effect of the tide with the flow of the Lea pushing against it and swelling fifty acres of water above the Mill. As all the wheels are undershot, or driven at their base, even a comparative trickle along the river in times of drought could turn the paddles. Each wheel is twenty feet high. The smallest is three feet wide and the broadest spans eleven feet. This largest wheel generated up to fifty horsepower. All four wheels together produced over a hundred horse-power, enough to drive twelve pairs of grinding stones, six pairs of which are still in position.

The area around the House Mill is important because it has been a centre of industry for over a thousand years. Domesday Book recorded that there were nine mills here in 1066. Such a concentration of power means that the surviving House Mill represents one of the oldest industrial traditions in Britain. Its products included flour, gin, oil and gunpowder. The lower Lea around Three Mills was a powerhouse for the capital and a centre of innovation for many centuries. London's industrial regulations and controls, that began in the Middle Ages, were legally avoided simply by crossing the Lea. Now the story of Three Mills is about to be told. Restoration is planned that will not only relate a past, but be a catalyst for a productive future.

Brian Daubeney

Canalway Cavalcade 1993

Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May at Little Venice

FOLLOW THAT?

Last year we celebrated the tenth Canalway Cavalcade with a Birthday theme to the decorated boats, party games on the last afternoon, a birthday cake and, above all, a Royal guest of honour at the opening ceremony. 'What', we all wondered, 'can we do to follow that?' We wanted something else to celebrate; what could we find?

200 YEARS OF THE GRAND JUNCTION

It was Robin Garrett, then British Waterways SE Regional Manager, who pointed out to us that 1993 would be the bicentenary of the Grand Junction Canal. In 1793 the only waterway connections from the Midlands to London were via the Coventry and Oxford Canals and the Thames (this route was completed in 1790) or the even more roundabout one via the Staffs and Worcs, River Severn, Thames and Severn and the Thames (route completed 1789). Both routes involved transshipment between canal narrowboats and river barges. Almost as soon as these were open there was pressure for a more direct canal route connecting, in particular, Birmingham and London.

The Grand Junction Canal was the first proposal (1791) for part of this route, from Braunston to Brentford. It seems to have been envisaged at first that the traffic would continue to use the northern part of the Oxford Canal and the Coventry. The Oxford Canal produced a counter-proposal for the London and Western (or Hampton Gay) Canal, from Hampton Gay, six miles north of Oxford to Isleworth via Thame, Wendover, Amersham and Uxbridge. Both Companies put proposals before Parliament. After much argument, the Grand Junction Company 'bought off' the Oxford with a guarantee of £10,000 per annum of income from the Grand Junction.

Meanwhile two other companies, the Warwick and Napton and the Warwick and Birmingham, came up with proposals that between them would continue the line of the Grand Junction to create what we now know as the Grand Union Main Line from London to Birmingham. The Warwick and Birmingham was the first of the three to gain Parliamentary approval (in March 1793) and the Warwick and Napton the last in 1794.

OUR CELEBRATION

We consulted the history books. The Grand Junction Canal was authorised by Parliament on

30 April 1793. We looked at our diaries. The actual bicentenary would fall on the Friday before the May Day Bank Holiday weekend: the day before Canalway Cavalcade was due to start. Here was an opportunity too good to miss!

So we decided to start Cavalcade half-a-day early, on the Friday afternoon, with a ceremony to mark the bicentenary. Details are at the planning stage but we plan to have a number of MPs participating and to get some good media coverage. This probably won't be a public event, being aimed at guests and the media, but we hope that it will take place among a lot of boat movements as boaters arrive for the weekend.

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

The rest of the weekend will feature all the regular events that Cavalcade regulars have learned to love. The opening ceremony will take place on Saturday afternoon, followed by the pageant of decorated boats, when the privately-entered boats will compete for the Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy and the commercially sponsored boats for the London Underground Challenge Trophy. Sunday evening will see the procession of illuminated boats competing for the Cruise Electric Trophy, which may be followed by fireworks and/or a laser show: plans are still fluid (I'm writing this at the beginning of February). The boat-handling competition for the Westminster Trophy will take place at various times spread over Sunday and Monday.

This year we're hoping to have some extra activities on the Monday, some of which will be for young people to join in: once again planning is at an early stage as I write.

Ashore there will be the usual lively Trade Show (bookings are already coming in well), and we plan a variety of musical and theatrical entertainments, probably making more use than last year of the floating 'bandstand'. There will be a number of activities for children, reaching their peak with the ever-popular 'Teddy Bears' Picnic on Sunday afternoon.

COME AND ENJOY IT!

Last year lots of people did: the police estimated that we had about 12,000 there on the Sunday (always the busiest day). There will be lots going on. There will certainly be lots of boats there: as I write we've received something like 90 bookings: more than at the same date in previous years.

SPONSORS

For Canalway Cavalcade to succeed, not only in giving visitors and boaters a good time, but also in raising money for the waterways movement, we depend on sponsors. Over past years some of our best sponsorship has come from personal contacts. Canalway Cavalcade has become more professional each year, in large part thanks to the help that sponsors give. The size of an individual company's sponsorship can vary widely: from the relatively small amount to cover the costs of an entertainer to the much bigger items of funding the scaffolding bridge or the marquees. Any help, from £50 to £5,000 will be gratefully received. If you can help, or if you 'know a man who can', please contact Adrian Steinkamp on his pager (number below).

WHERE AND WHEN

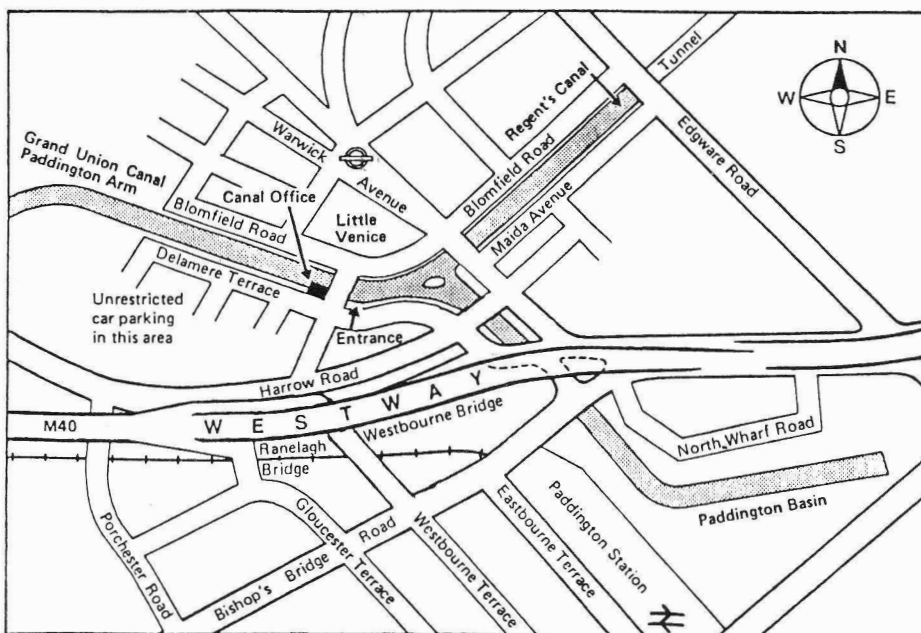
If you're coming to Little Venice by boat you can't miss it: at the junction of the GU Paddington Arm and the Regent's Canal. By public transport it's almost as easy: take the tube to Warwick Avenue (Bakerloo Line) and walk about 100 yards up the road of the same name, and you're there. Or there are a number of bus routes along Edgware Road: get off at Blomfield

Road and follow the canal. By car, make for the corner of Warwick Avenue and Blomfield Road (although you'll have to find a spot in one of the side-streets to park).

On Saturday, Sunday and Monday the site will be open to visitors from 10am to 6pm. For the illuminated boats on Sunday evening (starting at about 8pm, depending on how soon it gets dark enough), we have to keep the towpath closed (for safety reasons), but the pavements round the Pool are all raised some way above it and form excellent viewing platforms, especially in Warwick Crescent where last year's re-building of the retaining wall has resulted in a much wider pavement.

WHO TO CONTACT

Boat entries	Ann Hancox	081-542 8998
Trade Show	Richard Bird	081-857 6367
Publicity	Mike Stevens	081-674 9387
Sponsorship	Adrian Steinkamp	081-840 7000: pager no. 0335269
Canalway Cavalcade Director	Libby Bradshaw	081-874 2787



Notice of Region and Branch A.G.M.s

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meetings of the South-East Region and the London Branch will be on the dates and at the venues shown below. The AGM of the South-East Region is still relevant to London Branch, except for items 8 and 9, which apply to the remaining two Branches.

SOUTH-EAST REGION

Tuesday 30 March 1993 at 8.00 pm

The Fountain Inn,
Barming, Maidstone, Kent

LONDON BRANCH

Thursday 18 March 1993 at 7.30 pm

Abbey Community Centre,
34 Great Smith Street,
London SW1P 3BU

Our apologies for the fact that the date of the South-East Region AGM was given wrongly in our last issue. I'm afraid we were given mistaken information. This time we've double-checked it!

AGENDA FOR BOTH MEETINGS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM and any Special General Meeting held since.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Report of the Chairman.
5. Report of the Secretary.
6. Report of the Treasurer and presentation of accounts.
7. Adoption of accounts.
8. Statement of Committee size.
9. Election of Committee members.
10. Appointment of Hon. Accountant.
11. Any other business.

Nominations for the Committees should be in writing, signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee. Nominations must be received by the Region Secretary, Michael Stimpson, or the Branch Secretary, Sue Blake, as appropriate, not less than 14 days before the AGM concerned. Both addresses are on page 3.

Narrowboat

HALE LADY

*Exclusive Handpainted
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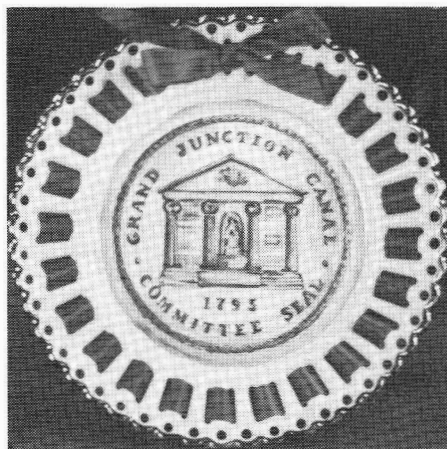
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JANE & JOHN BRANCH



*A lace plate commemorating the
bicentenary of the Grand Junction Canal
that Jane and John Branch are producing
in a limited edition.*

*It will be on sale at Canalway Cavalcade.
More details on page 10.*

Photo: John Branch



IWA LONDON BRANCH AND REGION SURVEY OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

TO ALL MEMBERS

You will have read elsewhere in this issue of *Excalibur* that we have now formed a new London Region of IWA, and are looking towards the time when we shall be able to divide the present London Branch into a number of smaller Branches. To do this in the best possible way, we need to know rather more than we do at present about our members: where they are and what kind of Branch activities they want.

At the Inaugural General Meeting of the new Region, Eric Garland said that the new structure had the potential of spreading the work-load more widely, by concentrating less of the work in a single Branch Committee. He also pointed out that this potential would only be realised if some more people came forward to take on some of the tasks. The last thing we want is the same old faces chasing around sitting on more Committees and wearing even more hats (if faces can be said to wear hats; you know what I mean). So we are also taking the opportunity to find out what members there might be out there who have untapped talents they may be willing to offer to the Association.

It is your Association; by spending a few minutes completing this questionnaire and returning it to the Branch Secretary, you will help us make our bit of the Association better at meeting the needs of our members and the cause of the waterways.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES TO:

Sue Blake, 52 Lightcliffe Road, Palmers Green, London N13 5PW

WHO ARE YOU?

1. YOUR NAME
2. ADDRESS
3. POST CODE 4. TELEPHONE
- (Please note that the postcode is important, since we are likely to use these to define the boundaries of the new Branches.)*
5. IS YOURS AN INDIVIDUAL OR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP? INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY
(Delete as appropriate)
- If a family membership, please give the ages of any children
6. ARE THE DETAILS ON YOUR ENVELOPE CORRECT? YES / NO
(Delete as appropriate)

YOUR INTERESTS

(To each question, tick any of the answers that apply)

7. WHAT ASPECTS OF WATERWAYS INTEREST YOU?
 - a) Boating
 - b) History
 - c) Commercial use
 - d) Walking
 - d) Angling
 - e) Restoration
 - f) ConservationAny other interest?
8. ARE YOU A BOATER?
 - a) Boat owner
 - b) Regular hirer
 - c) Regular crew.....
9. ARE YOU INVOLVED IN WATERWAY RESTORATION?
 - a) WRG member
 - b) Other group member
 - Which?
10. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY BOAT OR CRUISING CLUB? YES / NO
If so, which?

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

11. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN COMING TO MEETINGS HELD NEAR ANY OF THESE PLACES?

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) Central London | b) Barking |
| c) Ilford | d) Uxbridge |
| e) Croydon | e) Mottingham |
| f) Highgate | g) Richmond
Teddington |

Other suggestions

12. WHAT KIND OF MEETING WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| a) Talks | b) Film shows |
| c) Social evenings | d) Discussions |
| e) Members' slides | |

Other suggestions

13. WOULD YOU BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT OUTINGS?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) Coach trips (1-day) | b) Coach trips (2-day) |
| c) Guided walks | |

Other suggestions

14. WOULD YOU BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT BOAT RALLIES?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Canalway Cavalcade | b) More local event |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|

WHAT HELP CAN YOU OFFER?

15. ARE YOU PREPARED TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Working Parties | b) Sales stand |
| c) Publicity | d) Fund-raising |
| e) Public boat trips | f) Sponsored walks |
| g) Leading walks | h) Administration |
| i) Committee work | j) Publications |
| k) Rallies and events | l) Giving talks |

m) *Waterways for Youth*

Any others

16. HOW MUCH TIME COULD YOU SPARE TO HELP?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) 1 evening per month | b) 2 evenings per month |
| c) More than this | d) Occasional weekend dates |
| e) Odd times at home | |

17. DO YOU HAVE ANY PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) Civil Engineering | b) Surveying |
| c) Planning matters | d) Legal |
| e) Accountancy | f) Fund-raising |
| g) Publicity | h) Writing |
| i) Public speaking | j) Printing |
| k) Design/graphics | l) Entertainment, Music etc. |
| m) Dealing with public bodies, local authorities | n) Youth or children's activities |

Anything else you can offer?

YOUR COMMENTS

Please add any comments you would like to make about the future development of IWA in the London area.

BW South-East changes

One by one, the Regions of British Waterways have been restructured. The South East is the last to be announced. Peter Coyne, the Regional Manager, explained the changes in BW's magazine *'newways'*.

"My brief was to make a progressive success of the SE region and I saw that a success strategy would involve the reduction and enlargement of the waterway units.

The reason for that was two-fold. We have seen over the last few years progressive devolution of responsibility from the centre to the regions. That must be matched with a balancing devolution from the region to the waterway because the focus of our activity and the basis upon which our corporate plan is developed is the waterway.

The SE Region has now got three waterways. In the north we have combined the Oxford Canal with the Grand Union Canal (Central) as far as Weedon which will be managed by Simon Ainley. In the middle of the region we have the Grand Union (South) from Weedon to Cowley Peachey which will be managed by Caroline Clark. In the south, we have combined the Lee and Stort Navigations with London Canals and that will be Mark Bensted's responsibility.

Ian Marmont has moved to the regional office as project manager and he will be the force behind our essential and ambitious dredging programme. Michael Render as commercial executive will be focussing on leisure and tourism strategies and the SE business plan; driving them to success.

There are a number of elements to this strategy which are of particular note which include: the moorings development strategy to accompany the houseboats issue. We have an inadequate volume of moorings and we are trying to meet the demand as best we can. This will have to be fast-tracked, which Michael will be dealing with, and he will also be taking on the responsibility of the canal museum at Stoke Bruerne.

We felt that reducing to three waterways was the best decision for the safe future of the region. The gravity and the density of activity in the three waterways is the same although the emphasis is different. On the Lee and Stort and on London Canals, the emphasis is on property in association with moorings. The Grand Union (South) emphasis is very much craft and moorings. The Oxford and Grand Union concentrates on engineering, major works control and waterway standards.

An added benefit of this process is that, by vacating office locations and by releasing the fixed costs of those office locations, we shall shake down real financial savings which can then be reinvested in the waterways. So we actually increase our expenditure opportunities.

We will be vacating two out of five offices—it's open to question at the moment where we will vacate. Nothing can be presumed at this stage.

It's not an aim to make staff redundant. The currently vacant posts will now not need to be filled."

Excalibur does not automatically resist all changes proposed by BW (merely most of them?), and I feel it would be premature either to welcome or to condemn this restructuring. I see both good and bad omens in Peter Coyne's remarks, 'the emphasis is on property in association with moorings' sounds a bit ominous for boaters, anglers and towpath walkers. On the other hand, 'savings which can then be reinvested in the waterways' and 'ambitious dredging programme' are a lot more promising.

I feel that a lot of users on the Lee and Stort will miss Michael Render, but his new task concerning moorings and houseboats is desperately necessary and, to my mind, long overdue. Michael's reputation is good: he may well be the right man to come up with some good answers to the difficult problems that beset this aspect of his new responsibilities.

I am sad that one victim of BW reorganisation has been the English language. Why have they called their management units 'waterways'? As I see it, under the new arrangements Caroline Clark will manage a fraction of a waterway, and Mark Bensted something like four-and-a-bit waterways, depending on definitions. I'm not saying their administrative units are ill-conceived (they may or may not be: we shall see), just that I wish they'd thought of a more appropriate name for them. I shall think of them as Divisions.

I wish the Divisional Managers and other BW staff affected by these changes all the best in the new responsibilities. We shall all be watching them. I know we'll grumble pretty loudly when we don't like what they do: I hope we'll remember to do the opposite when that is called for.

Quotation from 'newways' published by permission of the Editor.

On the Metreau

News and Gossip of London's Waterways

REGION CHANGES

David Allison-Beer, Chairman of the old South-East Region until the recent re-organisation, did not offer himself for the Chairmanship either of the new London Region or for the revised South-East Region. Hence he lost his seat on IWA Council where he has been very active, including important work on various sub-committees. As we go to press, I hear that David has been co-opted back onto Council in a personal capacity, which is excellent news for those of us who value his work there.

Meanwhile we understand that David Moore, the previous Chairman of the South-East Region, has agreed to make a come-back in the Chair of the new, smaller Region.

At the Inaugural General Meeting of the new London Region on 21 January, Rosie Limming and Mike Stimpson were elected to the Region Committee to join Eric Garland who serves *ex officio* in his rôle as London Branch Chairman. The Committee met for the first time on 4 February and co-opted Bill Bannon (Chairman-designate of the proposed Middlesex Section: see elsewhere on this page), Libby Bradshaw (director of Canalway Cavalcade) and your Editor. Mike Stimpson, who has served for 14 years as Secretary of the old SE Region, was appointed as Region Chairman and will therefore represent London on IWA Council. Rosie Limming and Libby Bradshaw were appointed Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

John and Jane Branch, regular traders at Canalway Cavalcade, travel the canal system in their narrowboat *Hale Lady*, making and selling their own pottery and tiles, with a speciality of ribbon plates hand-painted to order to commemorate a special occasion or to portray a customer's boat.

They are producing a special limited-edition china ribbon plate commemorating the bicentenary of the Grand Junction Canal. The 8" plate will show a replica of the seal of the Canal Company in sepia, with a 22 carat gold rim. It will be boxed and come with a selection of coloured ribbons, at a price of £21.95 including post and packing. Numbers will be limited to 200 and each plate will be signed and numbered. It will be available directly from Jane and John (see their advertisement elsewhere in this issue), from the London Canal Museum, and, of course, at Canalway Cavalcade.

BOW BACK RIVERS

In our last issue we told you that approval had been given for Derelict Land Grant to dredge the 'navigable loop' of the Back Rivers to make it live up to its name. As I write, the latest news is that work has started and so we shall soon be able to get round the loop of the Old River Lee, City Mill River and St Thomas' Creek, at least if our boat isn't too tall to go under the Northern Outfall Sewer where it crosses City Mill River. This loop connects at both ends to the Lee Navigation and is at the level of the Limehouse Cut.

I have also heard interesting news of the longer-term plans for the two locks connecting this loop to the tidal sections (Waterworks River and Three Mills Wall River). Carpenters Road lock, a very interesting structure with two rising gates, is scheduled for eventual restoration for navigation. City Mill Lock, on the other hand, while it will be restored to its original appearance, will not be opened for navigation. I say 'opened' rather than 're-opened' since I'm told that there is no evidence of this lock ever having been used. Unless of course somebody out there knows otherwise...

More immediately, there are some working parties coming up for which we are looking for volunteers. March 18-25 is Waste-Watch Week, when the work to be done will involve the removal of debris from the rivers and towpaths. March 27/28 is the IWA Canal Clean-up weekend. April 16-15 in National Spring Clean-Up week when there will be painting work to be done on the two locks, along with installing railings and clearing towpaths. May 22-31 is BT Environment Week when again the work to be done will be debris removal from the rivers and towpaths. If you're interested in joining in any of these, please contact the Branch Working Party Organiser, Kevin Saint (phone number on page 3).

200 CLUB WINNERS: DECEMBER

£60	no. 21	Mr A D Hooper—Ilford
£30	no. 33	Mr R Fenton—Chingford
£15	no. 154	Miss J R Smith—Southampton
£15	no. 142	Mr M Smee—Hackney

MIDDLESEX GOES AHEAD

The members who have been meeting at our Uxbridge Socials have formed a committee and asked the Branch Committee to recognise them as a Section within the Branch, as a preliminary to becoming a Branch in their own right. By the time you read this, their request will have been

considered and, we hope, approved by the Branch Committee. If so, the Officers of the new Section will be as follows:

Chairman: Bill Bannon 081-573 8853

Secretary: Alison Struckett 0344-774228

Treasurer: Siobahn Selden 081-574 5624

Also on the Section Committee will be David Daines and Vernon Draper. There's one name there that tempts those of us involved in activities south of the Thames to accuse Middlesex of poaching!

CHELMSFORD BRANCH BARB-B-CRUISE

Excalibur readers will know that Chelmsford Branch's main project at the moment is the restoration of Springfield Basin, the Chelmsford terminus of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. They are aiming to complete this in time for the National Trailboat Festival at the end of May, but there will still be bills to be paid, so their annual fund-raising Barb-B-Cruise is even more important to them than usual, and they have asked us to encourage you to support them. The event will take place on Sunday 6th June and takes the form of a sponsored walk starting at Little Hallingbury Mill on the River Stort at 10am. The walk follows the towpath to Burnt Mill Lock, Harlow. Then comes a barbecue; the food is free to anyone who is sponsored for £10 or more. This last is thanks to the Lee and Stort Rivers Society whose members, together with Chelmsford IWA members, will provide a convoy of boats for the walkers to cruise back to the starting point, arriving there between 6 and 7pm. It sounds a fun day and certainly supports an excellent cause; why don't you get yourself sponsored to take part? Details and sponsorship forms are available from Bob Loader, 7 The Stiles, Heybridge Basin, Maldon, Essex, CM9 7SF.

LONDON STOPPAGES

A number of boaters who had hoped to cruise into or out of London on the Paddington Branch over Christmas were disappointed when it proved impossible to re-open the North Circular Aqueduct for the promised period over Christmas because when they let water back into the aqueduct it leaked. There were a few days when the route was open for limited hours. The stoppage is scheduled to finish on 1 March and the latest news we received was that it is likely to over-run by not by very much. The contractors did give an undertaking that if the stoppage over-runs they will provide facilities for craning boats over the gap. If any boaters find themselves having to avail themselves of this facility they are strongly advised not to sign any papers in connection with it without checking them through with their insurers.

There is another stoppage in our area, on Maida Hill tunnel, where the entrance retaining

walls are being rebuilt. We hear that the dewatering and early stages of the work have revealed the need for more work than expected, since the walls need under-pinning. So this one is also likely to over-run its scheduled re-opening (restricted navigation from 1 March, full use from 10 April), although we hear that there is firm intention to have it open by Easter.

If we get any more up-dates on the progress of either stoppage we will put it on the 'Late News' page.

BRANCH SALES STAND

One of the Branch's successful fund-raising projects is its Sales Stand, run for us by Rosie Limming. This goes out to a large number of events during the year and gets us a steady income. Rosie is always on the look-out for volunteers to help staff the Stand, and especially so for Canalway Cavalcade when so many of the active Branch members are fully occupied with other aspects of the event. If you are willing to help Rosie on the stand at Cavalcade (1 to 3 May) or at any other time, please make contact: her address and 'phone number are on page 3.

CANAL MUSEUM NEWS

Since our last issue, the exhibition about canal holidays has come and gone. Your editor helped out for a few days mid-week when things were definitely rather slow, but I understand that they were much livelier at the weekends.

While this issue is at the printers, WRG will hold another work-camp to do some more excavation of the ice-pits. On 16 February, in the middle of their work, there will be a reception to show this work-in-progress to invited guests including the Mayors of canalside Boroughs and Sir Anthony Durant MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Waterways Group.

There will be a WRG exhibition at the Museum for the whole of March, and a photographic exhibition on the *Canals 200* theme in April/May (see pages 13-15).

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

As any American readers will know, this is the Presidential March of the USA. It's also my devious way of telling you the the 1909 Josher steam narrowboat *President* is to visit Lodon again. This year we are fortunate in that her schedule allows her to be with us for Canalway Cavalcade, after which she plans to spend some time at the London Canal Museum before doing a fly-run to Birmingham later in May as part of the *Canals 200* programme of events. She will be accompanied by her 'new' butt, *Kildare* (built by Braithwaite's in 1913). While it won't be the first time *President* has visited the Cavalcade, it will be the first time we've hosted a pre-First-World-War Josher pair.

Limehouse Re-Opening

Weekend 29 / 30 May

Limehouse basin has been the site of major construction work for a long time; a new road has been built under the Basin by the cut-and-cover method. This has meant that the two canal routes to the Basin, the Regent's Canal and the Limehouse Cut, have each in turn been closed to navigation for extended periods. The work is in its very last stages, and an event is planned for the late May Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the re-opening. It is being organised by the Limehouse Basin Co-operative with participation by London IWA. Thanks to generous support from the contractors, Balfour Beatty Fairclough, as well as from the London Docklands Development Board and Tower Hamlets Borough, the plans sound pretty impressive.

The main activities will be on the Sunday, preceded by a boaters' event on the Saturday evening. This has been planned to suit those boaters who choose to travel to the event during the Saturday and home again during the Bank Holiday Monday. The site (including the beer-ent) should be set up by the Friday for early arrivals. If any boaters would like to bring their boats the weekend before or to leave their boats there until the following weekend, it will be perfectly safe to do so since there is 24-hour security on the site and a BW presence during the working day.

The central event of the weekend will be the formal civic re-opening on Sunday lunchtime, when three boats, each carrying musicians, are planned to enter the Basin simultaneously from the Regent's Canal, the Limehouse Cut and the Thames.

Among the boats attending will be the veteran London Fire Brigade boat *Massey Shaw*, which was at Dunkirk veteran and also gave hectic service during the Blitz. There will be boat trips and a programme of boating events in preparation, for which the huge space in the Basin creates an ideal opportunity. Plans are also being made for a floating orchestra, a laser show and fireworks.

Ashore there will be a traditional fairground (subject to licensing arrangements) and a Playbus and Bouncy Castle will be the foci of an under-10s area to leave older members of the family free to join in the many other the activities, which will included an art exhibition and classes and an exhibition about the history of Limehouse Basin.

Excalibur will be there with the Editorial battle-waggon, *Felis Catus II* and readers will be very welcome to drop by for a chat.

Further details and boat entry forms: contact Eric Reynolds on 071-247 6590 (office hours).

Grand Union 200: Boat 'n' Float

Weekend 19 / 20 June

IWA Grand Junction Region is leading a pertinent IWA celebration cruise of the Union and invites London Branch to be part of their *BOAT 'N' FLOAT* on the weekend of June 19/20. We shall also be calling in at the Cosgrove fair.

Two hundred boats are requested to form separate flotillas and to cruise the length of the Union from Brentford to Stoke Bruerne. A suitable artefact will be carried the entire length. Souvenir scrolls will be available to present to any Civic Dignitaries who travel with the flotilla or who rendezvous bankside for a Press call. (We need some good publicity after the bashing that IWA has had from BW locally). Although no boat is expected to travel the entire trip, it would be good if someone could! However, just your Branch area will be fine.

To leave a tangible reminder of the Bicentenary, we are doing two things. Funds are being

raised to reinstate the missing mileposts. Posts will be available for sponsoring.

Specially designed, 100% cotton T-shirts will also be available. We plan for these to make their first appearance and be on sale at Canalway Cavalcade, where you will also be able to arrange to sponsor a mile-post. We hope the stall will be somewhere near nb *President*.

Jennifer Thomas

Full details and information from the Milepost Co-ordinator, Jennifer Thomas (0992 466180 with answerphone).

EDITOR'S NOTE—

Sounds a good idea to me. I'm planning to take part in the BOAT 'N' FLOAT and would happily co-ordinate a flotilla at the London end of the run. Contact me (address & telephone on page 1) if you're interested.

Waterways Events in and around London

MARCH 1993

Whole of March	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	WRG EXHIBITION at the London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London N1. Details from the Museum (071-713 0836). GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington. Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact: Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 7th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Tim Sidaway: <i>'The Canal Infrastructure'</i> . Contact: Mike Stimpson (0923-770425)
Tuesday 9th 8pm	LONDON IWA	SOCIAL MEETING at AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. AGM followed by Roy Cox: <i>'Beyond Springfield Basin and beyond'</i> . Contact: Mrs Molly Beard (0702-554492)
Thursday 11th 8pm	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	AGM AND SOCIAL MEETING at Hatfield Cricket Club, Welwyn Garden City. Ian Fletcher: <i>'South-Eastern Safari'</i> . Contact: Greta Wright (0727-860137)
Tuesday 16th 8pm	IWA HERTS BRANCH	BRANCH AGM AND SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Roger Squires <i>'The economics of canal restoration'</i> . Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Thursday 18th 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA	WASTE-WATCH WEEK: working party on the Bow Back Rivers (details on page 10).
Thurs 18th→Thurs 25th		SOCIAL MEETING at 'The Royal Tavern', Mottingham (corner of Court Road and Sidcup Road; very close to Mottingham BR station). Dr. Michael Essex-Lopresti <i>'The Regent's Canal and the London Canals Museum'</i> . Contact Dorothy Robbie (081-857 6367)
Friday 19th 8.00pm	LONDON IWA	MUSTER at Union Jack Club, Sandell St (opposite Waterloo Station). Speaker: Alan Spong: <i>'The Great River Race'</i> . Contact John Morgan (0252-512848)
Friday 19th 7.0 for 7.30pm	THAMES BARGE SAILING CLUB	Dig on the Thames and Severn Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Weekend 20th/21st	LONDON WRG	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station. Contact: Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 21st 2pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	National Canal Clean-up weekend: working party on the Bow Back Rivers (details on page 10).
Weekend 27th/28th	LONDON IWA	BRANCH AND SE REGION AGMs at Fountain Inn, Barming, Maidstone. Contact: Angela Madle (0634-722661)
Tuesday 30th 7.30 for 8pm	IWA KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	

APRIL 1993

Sunday 4th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Paddington to Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 4th 11am	IWA KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	Visit to the Paddle Steamer <i>'Medway Queen'</i> at Damhead Creek, Hoo, near Rochester. No need to book. Contact: Angela Madle (0634-722661)
Tuesday 6th 8pm	LONDON IWA	SOCIAL MEETING at Barking Central Library. Bob Aspinall (Museum of London in Docklands). Contact: Sue Blake (081-882 8471)
Thursday 8th 8pm	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	SOCIAL MEETING at AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Speaker from NRA. Contact: Mrs Molly Beard (0702-554492)

Saturday 10→Monday 12	ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB
Tuesday 13th 8pm	LONDON IWA
Thursday 15th 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA
Friday 16th→Sunday 25th	NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK
Weekend 17th/18th	LONDON WRG
Sunday 18th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'
Tuesday 20th 8pm	IWA HERTS BRANCH
Wednesday 21st 8pm	LONDON IWA
April 25th→May 24th	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM
Tuesday 30th 7.3pm	IWA KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH
FRIDAY 30 APRIL→ MONDAY 3rd MAY	LONDON IWA

MAY 1993

Sunday 2nd 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'
Weekend 8th/9th	LONDON WRG
Tuesday 11th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'
Thursday 13th 8pm	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH
Saturday 15th	IWA KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH
Sunday 16th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'
Tuesday 18th 8pm	IWA HERTS BRANCH
Thursday 20th 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA
Friday 21st 8pm	LONDON IWA

EASTER CRUISE: Limehouse—Tideway—Slough and return. Meet at Limehouse 1pm Sat. Details from Roger Squires (072-232 0987)

SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge. Speaker to be arranged. Contact: Mike Stimpson (0923-770425)

SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Peter Coyne, BW Regional Manager (Subject to confirmation). Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)

Working party on the Bow Back Rivers (details on page 10).

DIG on the Thames and Severn Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)

GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington. Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3).

Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

SOCIAL MEETING at Hatfield C.C., Welwyn Garden City. General knowledge quiz evening (not canals). Contact: Greta Wright (0727-860137)

SOCIAL MEETING at 'The Railway Bell', North End, Croydon (almost opp. West Croydon bus & BR stations). David Wood *'Thames Sailing Barges'* Contact: Mike Stevens (081-674 9387)

CANALS 200 EXHIBITION (arranged by Roger Butler) at the London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London N1. Details: (071-713 0836).

SOCIAL MEETING at the Fountain Inn, Barming, Maidstone. Rob Wilshire: *'Continental Waterways'* Contact: Angela Madle (0634-722661)

CANALWAY CAVALCADE at Little Venice. For details and contacts see page 5.

GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Paddington (ends at Canalway Cavalcade). Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

DIG on the Wilts and Berks Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)

GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington. Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3).

Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

SOCIAL MEETING at AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Len Faram *'Tug Master'*. Contact: Mrs Molly Beard (0702-554492)

ANNUAL DINNER at the Rochester Carvery. Details and booking: Angela Madle (0634-722661)

GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington (Meet at Camden Town tube station). £4 (concessions £3).

Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

SOCIAL MEETING at Hatfield C.C., Welwyn Garden City. Nick Hill *'Memories of the 50s and 60s'*. Contact: Greta Wright (0727-860137)

SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Speaker to be arranged. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)

SOCIAL MEETING at 'The Royal Tavern', Mottingham (corner of Court Rd & Sidcup Rd: very close to Mottingham BR station). Arthur Farrand Radley *'Canals 200'*. (Subject to confirmation). Contact Dorothy Robbie (081-857 6367)

Fri. 21st→Sun. 23rd	RICKMANSWORTH WATERWAYS TRUST	RICKMANSWORTH CANAL FESTIVAL at Batchworth lock and Rickmansworth Aquadrome. Details from Batchworth Lock Canal Centre (0923-778382)
Saturday 22nd	ST PANCAS CRUISING CLUB	ISLE OF DOGS CRUISE: meet above Bow Locks, 12.15pm. Details from Roger Squires (072-232 0987)
Sat. 22nd→Mon. 31st	BT ENVIRONMENT WEEK	Working party on the Bow Back Rivers (details on page 10)
Tuesday 25th 6.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sat. 29th→Sun. 30th	LIMEHOUSE BASIN CO-OPERATIVE WITH LONDON IWA	LIMEHOUSE EVENT: details page 12
Sat. 29th→Sun. 30th	NATIONAL IWA	NATIONAL TRAILBOAT FESTIVAL at Springfield Basin, Chelmsford. Contacts: Entries Bill Spall 0245-420646 Exhibition Bryn Weightman 0858-433901 Director Ron Martin 0474-822175
Sat. 29th→Mon. 31st	WENDOVER ARM TRUST	FESTIVAL on the Wendover Arm. Contacts: Boat entries Barry Martin 0908 312239 Anything else Roger Lewis 0442 823378 DIG on the Neath Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Weekend 29th/30th	LONDON WRG	

JUNE 1993

Sunday 6th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 6th from 9.30am	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	BARB-B-CRUISE: Sponsored walk by the River Stort from Little Hallingbury Mill to Harlow. For details, see pages 10-11.
Sunday 6th 10am	IWA KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	TRAIL-BOAT TODDLE from Scots Float Sluice (River Rother) to Bodiam. Contact: Ian Dempster, 16 Dickswell Close, Gillingham.
Tuesday 8th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Paddington to Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 15th 8pm	IWA HERTS BRANCH	SOCIAL MEETING at Hatfield Cricket Club, Welwyn Garden City. David Blagrove 'Narrow-boat carrying today'. Contact: Greta Wright (0727-860137)
Wednesday 16th 8pm	LONDON IWA	SOCIAL MEETING at 'The Railway Bell', North End, Croydon (almost opposite West Croydon bus & BR stations). Speaker to be arranged. Contact: Mike Stevens (081-674 9387)
Weekend 19th/20th	LONDON WRG	DIG: venue to be announced. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Weekend 19th/20th	IWA GRAND JUNCTION REGION	BOAT'N'FLOAT WEEKEND. Details page 12.
Weekend 19th/20th	ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION	THAMES REGATTA at Kingston.
Sunday 20th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Mile End to Limehouse. Meet at Mile End tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 20th 10am→6pm	ISLINGTON CANAL DAY	
Tuesday 22nd 6.30pm	LONDON IWA with 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington. Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 29th (all day)	IWA HERTS BRANCH	BRANCH OUTING. Details to be announced. Contact: Greta Wright (0727-860137)

Late News

STOPPAGES : LATEST NEWS (as at 2 March)

Immediately before sending this page to the printer, your Editor talked with Waterway Manager Mark Bensted. He told me that the delay at Maida Hill has been caused by the discovery that the wing walls of the tunnel have never had any foundations! The work has been re-programmed to allow this to be put right, and the currently-expected date for re-opening is the end of March.

The latest news of the North Circular Road Aqueduct came from Chris Mitchell at BW Regional Office. Re-opening is now expected on 31 March. In the intervening period the following arrangements are in place for getting round the stoppage:

- 1) A waterman and escort vessel will be made available for vessels wishing to make passage on the tideway: 7 days' notice needed.
- 2) For vessels up to 20 tons weight, 60ft length & 9 ft beam, road transport arrangements from Bull's Bridge to just past the aqueduct will be available for 7 days per week at 1 day's notice.
- 3) For vessels not able to use either of these facilities, special arrangements will be made, but will need 7 days' notice.

To book the use of these facilities, boaters should contact the contractors, Balfour Beatty (Mr D Walker or Mr A Beauchamp) on 081-963 1733. If, for any reason, there are difficulties, the BW contact is Chris Mitchell on 0442-235400.

NEW YEAR DRAW

Our New Year Draw has again attracted a good response. Whilst not raising quite as much as last year, the profit on the Draw amounts to £1,180.50!

To all those who have supported the draw by purchasing tickets, your Committee would like to extend a big thank-you. We would also like to thank those who have sent donations to the Branch for the Draw without purchasing tickets. Finally, and of equal significance, there have been no expenses for the Draw. The prizes have all been donated, so please support those who have donated prizes to the Draw.

The winning tickets were drawn by our Vice-President, Arthur Farrand Radley, at the February Branch Meeting. The winners were as follows:

1st prize (Bridgewater Boats narrowboat holiday): Mr Sutton of East Grinstead. 2nd prize (Uxbridge Boat Centre £50 Gift Voucher): Mr Westernman of Greenford. 3rd prize (dinner cruise for 2 aboard *My Fair Lady*): Mr Barrett of Hayes. 4th prize: Alex Prowse waterway colour print: Mr Ferguson of Clapton. 5th prize (Marks & Spencer £20 gift voucher): A Jessop of London W8. 6th prize (*Waterways World* annual subscription): Mr Kirby of London SE12. 7th & 8th prizes (*Canal & Riverboat* annual subscriptions): Mr Welch of Battersea & Dave Newman of Waterloo. 9th prize (framed Alan Firth waterway print): Sue Wright of London SW7. 10th prize (*History and Guide to the Leeds & Liverpool* by Mike Clarke): Annette Donahue of Gravesend. 11th prize (IWA pewter tankard): Mr Seymour of London

N9. 12th prize (IWA silver bud vase): Mr Bentley of London W3. Consolation prize (a whoopee cushion) to Mr & Mrs Beaver of Plumstead.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Branch Committee has expressed its thanks to Richard Bird, not only for organising the Draw but for sponsoring the printing of the tickets.

200 CLUB WINNERS: FEBRUARY

£60	Ms Marion Waters	London E12
£30	Mr B J Kirkbride	Colne, Lancs
£15	Mr P Pledger	Selsey, W Sussex
£15	Mr R Martyn	London NW5

The 200 Club raises over £700 each year for Branch funds and gives members a chance to win cash prizes every two months. If you want to join, please contact Sue Blake (address on page 3).

CROYDON MEETINGS : CHANGE OF VENUE

Since the *Waterways Events* page went to press, we have heard that the *Railway Bell*, where we have held all our Croydon meetings to date, is closing at short notice for renovation. The meetings on 21 April and 16 June have now been booked at the *Ship Inn*, High Street, Croydon (see map below).

