

# Excalibur

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

**NUMBER 11, SUMMER 1993**

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*WRG volunteers at the London Canal Museum.  
During February's work-camp 180 tons of in-fill was removed from the old ice-pits.  
See story on page 9  
Photo: Mike Stevens*

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\* = answerphone

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# From the Branch Chairman and Editor

## NEW BRANCH OFFICERS

At its first meeting after the AGM, the Branch Committee appointed its officers for the year.

Eric Garland had given notice a year before that he was prepared to continue for only one further year as Branch Chairman, and he stuck to this decision. He has been Branch Chairman for about eight years, and has filled the post with distinction. In particular he has been an excellent representative of the Branch to the many outside bodies with whom he has dealt on our behalf. He deserves a lot of gratitude for what he has done in his years in the Chair.

Fortunately Eric's desire for a rest from the Chairmanship doesn't mean that he's giving up work for the Association. He continues as Planning Officer of the Planning and Navigation Committee (now a Committee of the Region), although handing over the Chair of Plan. Nav to Ron Bingham, also long-serving as Navigation and Liaison Officer. Eric has agreed to become Region Vice-Chairman. Ron also joins the Region Committee.

Your Editor was elected to succeed Eric as Branch Chairman. If nothing else, this saves a page in *Excalibur*; which is just as well since our increasing level of activity at Region, Branch and local levels means that the address-list we need to publish is ever-expanding.

We continued last year's practice of appointing two Branch Vice-Chairmen, this year Libby Bradshaw and Dorothy Robbie, each doubling-up this office with others they already hold.

New blood on the Committee is provided by Ian Ferguson who, to my relief, has agreed to take over the job of Minutes Secretary. He has also proved himself at Canalway Cavalcade not only as an extremely willing worker but also as somebody with access to useful equipment!

Other Branch Officers and Officials continue in their posts. We are grateful to them all for the work they have done in the past and continue to do. Details are on the opposite page. We are, of course, always on the look-out for more volunteers to help share the work. So if you... I don't need to finish the sentence, do I?

## WINTER STOPPAGES

The Late News page of our last issue contained the latest-available news of our two winter stoppages in London: the North Circular Road aqueduct and Maida Hill Tunnel. The Tunnel opened pretty well as expected when we published that news, although navigation was somewhat restricted for a time after then because of further work continuing.

The North Circular Aqueduct has been another story. It finally(?) opened to boat traffic on either the evening of Easter Sunday or the morning of Easter Monday, depending on who you talk to. Members of St Pancras Cruising Club on their London Ring Cruise were among the first boats to cross it on the Monday morning, with the Editorial battle-wagon tagging along. Towards the end of May, only one of the water channels is open and there is no towpath in use. I did hear a few weeks ago that the aqueduct was still leaking, but don't know how up-to-date that news is. Perhaps BW should market it as a car-wash!

I don't know enough of the detail of the project to apportion blame for the delay, except in the most global sense. The reason for the job was to widen the North Circular Road, so the main planning was done by the Department of Transport. Whatever else may have happened, we can be confident that length of the canal stoppage is an indicator of the level of priority that waterways have in DTp's thinking. Had it been a railway rather than a waterway that was inconvenienced by the work, the priority would surely have been much higher and the stoppage much shorter. Had it been another of those sacred cows, roads, there probably wouldn't have been a stoppage at all!

## SORRY WE'RE LATE

Apologies for the late appearance of this issue. Canalway Cavalcade (see report elsewhere in this issue) always takes a large chunk of my time in April and May, and I've also been more than usually busy in the 'day-job'. I hope we'll be back on schedule with the next issue.

*Mike Stevens*

## FUTURE ISSUES

Publication Date	Copy date
No. 12 Autumn 1993	10 July 1993
No. 13 Winter 1993	2 October 1993
No. 14 Spring 1994	18 December 1994
No. 15 Summer 1994	5 March 1994

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Published by the Branch at 114 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UG. Telephone: 071-586 2510/2556.

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

# From the Region Chairman

I must first of all congratulate Libby Bradshaw and her team for yet another most successful Canalway Cavalcade.

The event goes better each year and, despite constraints placed on the event this year by the recession, 1993 proved no exception to the graph of success.

It is wonderful knowing that we are reaching so many Londoners and letting them know there is more than just the Thames running through the Capital.

How many of them have ever heard of the Fleet or the Wandle, or even the Lee?

It was a shame we could not say the same about the events planned for Canal Clean-Up Weekend, but you can't have it all ways.

On the bright side is the new attitude of the BWB under the leadership in our area of the new Region Manager, Peter Coyne, whom some of you met at Cavalcade, others at the Middlesex Section meeting he came to at the end of last year.

There is a feeling of unity which has been missing for years, which we have every hope will result in our working together for the future of our waterways as opposed to the daggers-drawn relationship of recent years.

The prospect for the future is bright indeed and your Region and Branch Officers look forward to working with the new Southern Region of the Board for the good of all the users of the system.

The most important thing I have to ask you is 'Can you get us more members?'

A constant cry, I know, but it is vital at the present time. For the very future of the Association and thus the waterways we must all do everything we can to expand our membership at a time when many are looking to leave clubs and groups due to one simple factor—the overall cost of living at a difficult time. Your Association is suffering in this respect as are all others.

Membership forms are available from any committee member, and we really do need your help in this respect.

Can I thank you for the help I know you are going to give in this respect. If every member can find a new person to join, then this will result in our being able to do so much more for your waterways. Perhaps you could make it two, to make up for another member who is not so successful as you!

Thank you.

Mike Stimpson

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

*I endorse what Mike says above about a new and more helpful attitude from BW. Those of us from the Canalway Cavalcade team who had dealings with Mark Bensted and his team at the London Canals Office certainly found this. Some unfortunate misunderstandings from previous years were put firmly behind us and the degree of co-operation was better than for many years. Long live!*

Mike Stevens



*One visitor to the Friday of Canalway Cavalcade was BBC Radio Two's Ed Stewart. He will be at the IWA National Waterways Festival at Peterborough in August with the Radio Two Roadshow. He is seen here at Cavalcade, on the stern of Bridgewater Boats' hire-boat Rum Tum Tugger.*

PHOTO: Harry Arnold Waterway Images



# PLA Notice to Mariners

Port of  
London



U/6  
of 1993

NOTICE TO  
MARINERS

## NAVIGATION OF NARROW BOATS ON THE TIDAL THAMES

This Notice applies ONLY to narrow boats  
of between 20 and 25 metres in length overall which are in transit  
between the Grand Union Canal and the non-tidal Thames  
via the Brentford and Teddington Locks

Direction 2 of the General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 1991 states, inter alia, that vessels of more than 20 metres in length overall shall be equipped with an operational VHF radio telephone. However, an exemption to this direction has been agreed for a trial period during 1993 for the abovementioned category of craft in the circumstances stated above, providing that:

- (a) Where no VHF set is carried the person in charge of the navigation of the vessel must report to the PLA Navigation Centre (TNS) at Woolwich by telephone [081 855 0315] prior to entering the tidal Thames, to obtain clearance to proceed. It will need to be established that the person in charge of the vessel is fully conversant with all PLA's rules and regulations, including Notices to Mariners relevant to the area.
- (b) If there are no events taking place on the river or other navigational restrictions at the time, the vessel will be given permission to proceed and the duty Harbour Service launch will be advised by TNS.
- (c) If river events are taking place or there are other navigational restrictions at the time, then the vessel must comply with any relevant directions from TNS or the PLA Harbour Service before proceeding.
- (d) In the event of the vessel being involved in any incident while navigating on the tidal Thames, details must be reported to TNS by telephone as soon as possible.
- (e) The person in charge of the vessel must report to TNS by telephone as soon as possible after leaving the tidal Thames.

ALL VESSELS NAVIGATING ON THE TIDAL THAMES MUST, in all other respects, COMPLY WITH THE PLA'S RIVER BYELAWS 1978 (as amended) and the General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London 1991.



PORT OF LONDON  
AUTHORITY

Port of London Authority,  
London River House,  
Royal Pier Road,  
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG  
15th April 1993

CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER  
G. S. VARNEY

Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

# Canalway Cavalcade 1993

Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May at Little Venice



*Guests and hosts together by narrowboat President on the Friday of Canalway Cavalcade 1993. Left to right: Brian Dice, Mike Stimpson, David Stevenson, Sir Anthony Durant MP, Illyd Harrington, Jaques Arnold MP, Mark Bensted, Robin Gray, Arthur Farrand Radley and Libby Bradshaw.*

*PHOTO: Harry Arnold Waterways Images*

Canalway Cavalcade has come and gone, much as previewed in our last issue. The weather was kind to us, especially on the Saturday, which produced some of the biggest Saturday crowds we can remember.

We started on the Friday, the actual bicentenary of the Grand Junction Canal Act, with a reception to mark the date. The 1909/1913 Josher pair of narrowboats, *President* and *Kildare*, arrived at Little Venice spot on time at the end of a run from their base at the Black Country Museum. They were welcomed by Sir Anthony Durant MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Waterways Group, who was supported by Jaques Arnold MP, another member of the group. David Stevenson, IWA National Chairman who was also skipper of *President* for the last stage of the run from Birmingham, responded to Sir Anthony's speech and read a message of greeting from the Birmingham Canal Navigations Society to London IWA. Mike Stimpson, our Regional Chairman responded to this and Brian Dice, Chief Executive of BW, spoke about *Waterways 200*, with which this year's Cavalcade was linked. IWA Regional President, Illyd Harrington JP, DL then presented those who had taken part with commemorative scrolls prepared by IWA Grand

Junction Region for the bicentenary. Canalway Cavalcade Director Libby Bradshaw compered the ceremony. Other people present included Mark Bensted and Robin Gray from BW London Canals Office, Branch Vice-President Arthur Farrand Radley and Paddy Walker, the new Chairman of the London Canal Museum, on whose restaurant-boat *My Fair Lady* the reception was held. Our guests then travelled to Camden on *My Fair Lady*.

Meanwhile harbourmaster Chris Port and his team were busy marshalling boats arriving in the Pool for the rest of the weekend, which followed the pattern familiar to regular attenders.

The opening ceremony took place on Saturday afternoon and involved Ray Carter (IWA National Vice-Chairman), Peter Coyne (BW Regional Manager), and again Illyd Harrington, who brought a message of greeting from HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

This was followed by the pageant of decorated boats, many of them picking up the bicentenary theme. The Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy for the best privately-entered decorated boat was won by the London Waterway Recovery Group on Rupert Smedley's narrowboat *Ben* with tableaux of Navvies 1793 and 1993. Runners-up

were Vernon and Marie Draper on *Cleopatra II* (artistic director Rosie Limming) and David Mann on *Caldon*. Vic and Shirley Trott on narrow-boat *Tristan III* were highly commended. The London Underground Challenge Trophy for the best commercially-sponsored decorated boat went to the Bakerloo Line on Graham Capelin's narrowboat *Marab*, not in her former prize-winning disguise as a tube train but in a new Underground livery.

The illuminated boat event on Sunday evening produced one of the highest numbers of entries in recent years and undoubtedly the highest standard, despite there being no commercially-sponsored entries this year. The Cruise Electric Trophy was awarded to Vernon and Marie Draper on narrowboat *Cleopatra II*. The runners-up were last year's winners, Jan and Pam Smith on their launch *Victoria M*. David Streeter's cruiser *The First Lady* was highly commended. A special Creative Award was given to *The Little Venice Monster*, a raft-mounted exhibit made by Beauchamp Lodge Settlement under the direction of artist-in-residence Charlotte Tymms with the help of Martin Cottis.

The boat-handling competition was spread over three sessions, two on Sunday and one on Monday. The Westminster Trophy was successfully defended by last year's winner Phillip Bittner (still the youngest contender) in Martin Cottis' narrowboat *Barnham*, with David Daines second in *Lynx* and a tie for third place between Alec Gosling in *Betty G* and Dave Rogers in *Siberia*.

The programme prize, a week's holiday in a canalside cottage, was donated by Michael Handford. It was won by Lindy Foster of Bridgewater Boats, who donated back it to be auctioned in aid of the IWA.

There was plenty to do for boaters and visitors alike. Richard Bird had managed to fit in even more traders than last year. For the first time for some years, visitors were able to look over a hire-boat, *Rum Tum Tigger*, which had been brought from Berkhamsted by Mike and Lindy Foster of Bridgewater Boats. They also brought a second boat for use by the Committee. In the day this served as the public address cabin (very welcome to those of us who work in that department) and overnight it provided the Harbourmaster with somewhere to lay his weary head.

We had a wide selection of music, much of it on our floating bandstand, with two jazz bands, the *Still Drinking* folk group, the Fulham Brass Band and the North Westminster Community School Steel Band. The Daystar Theatre Company were with us once again with two shows, including their latest, *The Bargee and the Book-keeper*, which received its premiere at the

boaters' entertainment on Saturday evening and its first public showing the next day.

Graham Nunn and his Church Army team on their boat *Hartley Harlequin* once again laid on a programme of activities for children, reaching its climax on Sunday afternoon with the Teddy Bears' Picnic which attracted over 80 young participants. Canoe displays each day by the Meanwhile Gardens Community Association drew excellent audiences, and we had another impromptu tug-of-war between Neil Todd's 1932 tug *White Heather* and her more modern BW counterpart, *Olton*.

Part of the atmosphere and activity of Cavalcade is provided by businesses that operate at Little Venice all the time. Boat trips by the London Waterbus Company and Jason's Trip are always popular. The puppet theatre barge *May Brent* adds to the entertainment available, and Alex Prowse's gallery barge offers a more meditative pleasure.

On Monday afternoon the boats started to leave, and once the site closed at 6pm the job of clearing-up began. This year the task was made to feel easier by the prospect of a 'staff barbecue' later that evening. During this a presentation was made to Ian Ferguson of a miniature Buckby can (donated by Ray Dunford) in gratitude for Ian's splendid work all weekend, and for the valuable equipment he obtained on loan for us.

The event went very well. More boats than ever came: something like 140 all told. This was far too many to get everyone in the Pool, and spaces were allocated on the basis of the order of booking, the rest going onto the visitor moorings by Delamere Terrace. This caused quite a rush to book in for next year. Boat Entries Officer Ann Hancox tells me that we've already taken almost enough 1994 bookings to fill the Pool.

We had a good variety of boats there. Narrow-boats old and new were the most prevalent, but it was good to see an increased number of cruisers and a couple each of launches and barges.

Admittedly there were a few slip-ups in our organisation which we will have to put right next year, but on the whole they were invisible to the participants. Our Site and Services team, led by Peter Jackman and ably supported by KESCRG did a splendid job. We got quite a bit of radio publicity and a slot on the Big Breakfast TV show.

We should like to thank everybody who helped make the event possible: organisations who sponsored us, either in cash or in kind, people who spent time and effort decorating their boats and all helpers, whether at the event itself or during the run-up and clear-up periods.

Mike Stevens

# On the Metreau

## News and Gossip of London's Waterways

### THAMES VHF RULE CHANGE

After long discussions, some reported in these pages, a satisfactory outcome has been reached concerning the requirement for v.h.f. radio on the tideway for vessels over 20 metres in length. An exemption has been agreed for vessels between 20 and 25 metres making passage between Brentford and Teddington. The text of the Notice to Mariners which sets out all the relevant conditions is reproduced on page 5 of this issue. Our congratulations to all involved in securing an excellent outcome.

### TOWPATH WALKS

Since the later part of 1992, the towpath walks organised by IWA London Branch have gone into partnership with *London Walks*, a large organisation which runs walks of many kinds all over London. The towpath walks are still led by Michael Essex-Lopresti and his team of volunteers, who donate their fees to the IWA. The idea of this partnership (from IWA's point of view) was that access to the large publicity operation of *London Walks* would bring us more customers, thus allowing us to develop the service and provide more walks and a greater variety of routes. In this and the previous issue extra walks and routes are in the programme. We have added to the original two routes on the Regent's Canal so that the whole of the Regent's is now covered in four walks. Two walks on the New River are also in the repertoire and a Bow Back Rivers walk is to be added in the Autumn. The increase in the number of walkers and in the receipts by IWA has outstripped our expectations. The last complete year before the link with *London Walks* was 1991, when we ran 16 walks which attracted a total of 132 walkers and a profit of £295.81 for IWA. The first four months alone of 1993 have seen 8 walks, 289 walkers and an income to IWA of £621.63.

The extra walks are keeping our small number of guides very busy, and numbers on some walks are so big that a second guide would be a great help. So we are looking for more people to train to join the team. The only requirements are a general background knowledge and love of the canals, and readiness and willingness to walk and talk. Detailed notes will be provided on each of the routes, and you will be invited to learn the ropes with the experienced guides before 'going solo'. If you're interested, please contact Michael Essex-Lopresti (telephone number on page 2).

### SPEAKERS WANTED

Another aspect of the Branch's work that needs some more volunteers is our Speakers Panel. From time to time we are invited to send a speaker to meetings of other organisations. Hardly any of these have a specialist waterways orientation, so the work doesn't require a lot of detailed technical or historical knowledge. An audience might well be a church social club, a retirement group or a ladies' group. What they want is a light, interesting talk illustrated with lots of nice slides. Occasionally we are invited to talk to a more specialist audience such as a ramblers' club or a transport society, but if an individual on our panel felt able only to tackle the less specialised venues, that would be fine. Access to a reasonable collection of waterways slides is essential, as is the ability to write and present an interesting talk. Advice can be provided for those who might like to join the team. If you'd like to consider the possibility, please contact Arthur Farrand Radley (telephone number on page 2).

### LONDON RING PLAQUES

Spring always brings a rush of orders for these, with St Pancras Cruising Club and others running group cruises of the London Ring (which consists of the Paddington Branch, the Regent's Canal, the Thames tideway from Limehouse to Brentford and the Grand Union Main Line to Bull's Bridge). If you do this cruise, either solo or as part of a group, you are entitled to buy one of the plaques on production of evidence that you have done so. Details from Lewis Phillips (telephone number on page 2).

### DOCKLANDS BOAT GATHERING

A gathering is proposed for the weekend 15-17 October in the shadow of Europe's tallest building at Canary Wharf. Ray Bown is hoping that this will become an annual event: next year it may well be timed for the weekend before the National. The price will be around £40 per boat including locking-in and out and mooring fees. (Normally £90 for a 50ft boat). There is a maximum of 50 boats on a first-come-first-served basis. It may be possible (subject to confirmation) to extend the stay until 21 October for no extra charge. Anybody interested should contact Ray Bown, 26 Cairngorm Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 5DS (telephone 0256-466748).

## CANAL MUSEUM PROBLEMS . . .

The April newsletter of *Friends of the London Canal Museum* reported changes to the management in the museum, and serious financial difficulties. Dinah Hutchings has been replaced as Chairman of the Museum Trust. Her successor is Paddy Walker, who may be known to many of our readers as the proprietor of Jenny Wren Cruises.

*Friends* Newsletter Editor David Moore writes: 'It is clear that the decision to purchase the freehold of the building. . . was based on some very optimistic estimates of the income from visitors. Viewed in retrospect it can now be seen as a disastrous move. The museum had a sound financial base when it opened but the purchase has taken all that and, in addition, incurred a considerable bank debt. The Trustees are at present in negotiations with the bank to try and arrange a package to save the museum.'

Measures being contemplated to save the Museum from closure include identifying additional sources of funding and the laying-off of paid staff. The Curator, Nigel Sadler, has been declared redundant and (unless some sort of rescue package is in place before then) will have left by the time you read this. He will be sorely missed. This means that the *Friends* will need to recruit enough volunteers to staff the museum. Volunteers are asked to contact Dave Moore (12 Rectory Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 0DL, telephone 0375-677729).

## . . . AND SUCCESS

February's WRG Work Camp at the Museum (which happened while our last issue was at the printers) was a great success, with about 40 people taking part at some stage of the week. The excavation of the ice-pits made considerable progress. 180 tons of infill were removed, involving 3,600 barrow-loads or 64,000 shovels-full. The total distance travelled by wheelbarrows during the dig was something like 8 miles. At the same time a viewing platform was constructed round the stern of the narrowboat *Coronis* on display on the ground floor of the Museum.

## THE HOUSE MILL RE-OPENING

Our last issue contained an article by Brian Daubney about this fascinating building and its restoration. The Mill itself and its new Visitor Centre are to open to visitors on the weekend of 31 July/1 August, when there will be a rally to celebrate the occasion. Details from David Allison-Beer on Uxbridge (0895) 238523.

## HILLINGDON LOCKS CONSERVATION PANEL

The name, I hope, is self-explanatory. IWA is currently represented on it by David Allison-Beer, in his capacity as a member of the Region's Planning and Navigation Committee. Our Middlesex Section is looking for a volunteer to represent them on the same Panel. If you would be interested, please contact any member of the Middlesex Section Committee (see page 2), or David Allison-Beer on Uxbridge (0895) 238523.

## DELIVERY JOB

Middlesex section is also looking for help with delivering advertising leaflets to canal-side houses in their area (the Grand Union from Rickmansworth to Brentford and the Western part of the Paddington Branch). The leaflets will contain information about the IWA and specifically about the Section's programme of events. Volunteers please contact Alison Struckett (see page 2).

## ANOTHER FLY-RUN

All the most interesting things seem to happen while *Excalibur* is due to be at the printers! This time it's another fly-run by the 1909 steam-powered narrowboat *President*. A couple of years ago she did a fly-run from London to Braunston. This year she is doing another, this time from London to Birmingham and accompanied by her 1913 butty *Kildare*. They are scheduled to leave City Road Basin (where FMC had the London base of their steamer fleet) at 7pm on Thursday 27 May. They will call in at the Braunston Boat Show on the Saturday and arrive in central Birmingham on Monday morning, after a run which is expected to take 80 hours. The run is sponsored by British Waterways as part of their *Canals 200* programme.

## LIMEHOUSE RALLY

The rally to mark the re-opening of all three entrances to Limehouse Basin will also have happened while this is at the printers. We hope to have a report and photograph in our next issue.

# Letter

Dear Mike and all at Canalway Cavalcade,

I'm writing to let you know what a marvellous start the Cavalcade has given to the Bicentenary Milepost Appeal. The Appeal was launched at Little Venice and has so far raised money to replace the following missing posts:

- No. 93: BRENTFORD. Donated by IWA London Branch.
- No. 90: THREE BRIDGES. Donated by St Pancras Cruising Club.
- No. 87: Funds raised at Cavalcade: it will be erected in the name of the *Friends of the London Canal Museum*.
- No. 76: BY COMMON MOOR LOCK: Funds raised at Cavalcade: it will be erected in the name of Canalway Cavalcade. This is the nearest missing post to the boundary of IWA London Region.

In addition, the Metropolitan Railway is seriously considering No. 73 at Ricky, as their line crosses the canal.

The re-cycling of Rosie's 'paper Union' raised £36 and we shall continue to use it—on dry land!—until it falls to pieces. So please save your pennies & 'pop them on the line'. We shall be at Ricky, Braunston, Chelmsford, Wendover, Cosgrove, Bulbourne & Peterborough. There are still 5 posts to replace in the London area. If anyone wants one at £75, please contact me direct.

With thanks and best wishes,

*Jennifer Thomas,  
Milepost Appeal Co-ordinator,  
Thrifty House, 42 Admirals Walk,  
Hoddesdon, Herts, EN11 8AG.  
Telephone 0992-466180*

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## BOOK REVIEW

### BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

by Gordon Moore and Chrissie Franklin

Today Publications, Bristol.

40pp £3.95

This walker's guide to the Stroudwater and the Thames and Severn Canals was inspired by the HTV programme of the same name, and would have a particular appeal for people who enjoyed the

programmes, decided to walk the Cotswold tow-paths, and now want to be able to refer back to the information given on television and find out more.

After a very brief history of the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames and Severn Canal, and of the beginning of the canal age, five suggested walks are described. I think the maps in the book are inadequate, but OS references are given. A more serious annoyance is that no advice is given about reaching any of these places by public transport, even where it does still exist. Are these writers interested only in the carriage trade?

For each of the five walks, there is a little canal history, followed by a section labelled 'LOOK OUT FOR', which includes historic buildings, with or without waterway connections, exhibitions ditto, boat rides and places to eat and drink.

Sadly, *Between Two Rivers* seems to me to fall between two stools: it hasn't enough practical information (better maps, for example, and bus route numbers) to be a useful walk planner, and it skims the surface maddeningly in its historical accounts. Perhaps its ideal readers are the people who saw the television programmes. Be that as it may, the authors do suggest a list of books for further reading, and they encourage readers to support the Cotswold Canals Trust. The beautiful photographs in the book are by Gordon Moore.

*Wendy Stevens*

## *Between Two Rivers*

A new guide to the route of  
the old Stroudwater  
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# Waterways Events in and around London

## JUNE 1993

Wednesday 16th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	DAY CRUISE from Camden Lock to the Limehouse and back. £9.50 (Concessions £8.50). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Wednesday 16th 8pm	<b>LONDON IWA</b>	<b>SOCIAL MEETING</b> at 'The Ship', High St, Croydon. (5 minutes' walk from East Croydon West Croydon BR stations). Fun quiz against members from SE London. Contact: Mike Stevens (081-674 9387)
Wednesday 16th 6.45pm	RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	CANAL WALK on the Paddington Arm from Harlesden to Little Venice. Meet at Harlesden BR Station. No charge. Time 2 or 3 hours.
Thursday 17th 7 for 7.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA</b>	<b>SOCIAL MEETING</b> at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BU. Members' slides. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926).
Saturday 19th	CUTTY SARK SMALL SHIPS RACE	250 Mini-clippers circumnavigate the Pool of Little Venice for charity.
Saturday 19th	HARLOW OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTRE	Contact: Tony Clark (071-396 9671) With BW: <b>FUN DAY</b> at Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Burnt Mill Lane, Harlow. 5mins walk from Harlow Town BR. Wide choice of activities. £1.50 per activity (adult), £1 child. Evening party and barbecue £5. Advance booking 0279-432031.
Weekend 19th/20th	LONDON WRG	DIG: venue to be announced.
Weekend 19th/20th	IWA LONDON & GRAND	Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Weekend 19th/20th	ROYAL NATIONAL	<b>JUNCTION REGIONS—BOAT'N'FLOAT WEEKEND</b>
Sunday 20th 2.30pm	<b>LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION</b> <b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	<b>THAMES REGATTA</b> at Kingston (Illuminated sail-past Saturday evening, Ravens Ait, Kingston Bridge). <b>GUIDED WALK</b> on the Regent's Canal: Mile End to Limehouse (about 2 hours). Meet at Mile End tube station. £4 (concessions £3).
Sunday 20th 11am to 4pm	ENFIELD LOCK CONSERVATION GROUP	Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 22nd 6.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	<b>ENFIELD LOCK FAIR</b> at Rammey Marsh, off Ordnance Road, Enfield. Admission 50p.
Wednesday 23rd	RAVENS AIT	<b>GUIDED WALK</b> on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington (about 2 hours). Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3).
Friday 25th (evening)	BOROUGH OF EALING	Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Saturday 26th 7.30pm	DAYSTAR THEATRE & HILLINGDON CANAL CLUB	<b>CHARITY CHALLENGE</b>
Sat 26th/Sun 27th	LOWER LEA PROJECT	CANAL CRUISE, Southall to top of Hanwell locks. £5. Advance bookings only. Contact 081-758 5916
Sunday 27th	BRITISH CANOE UNION	Performance and barbecue at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Admission £2.50.
Sunday 27th (all day)	IWA HERTS BRANCH	Conservation work on the Bow Back Rivers. Nearest tube, Stratford (15 mins walk)
Sunday 27th	TEAMWORK	<b>ROUND LONDON INTERNATIONAL CANOE RACE</b> from Brentford to Mile End via Little Venice. Contact: Alan Williams (081-398 3818)
Sunday 27th	SMALL BOAT CLUB	<b>BRANCH OUTING</b> . Details to be announced.
Wednesday 30th 6.45pm	RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	Contact: Greta Wright (0727-860137)
Wednesday 30th 7.30pm	FOOTPATHS ASSOCIATION	<b>SPLASH DAY</b> at Ravens Ait <b>REGATTA</b> at Kingston
		CANAL WALK on the Regent's Canal from Little Venice to King's Cross. Meet at Warwick Avenue Tube Station. No charge. Time 2 or 3 hours.
		<b>STORT MEANDER</b> . 2½ hour walk, partly on the River Stort towpath. Meet at the Moorhen, Burnt Mill Lane, Harlow. Nearest BR, Harlow Town (5 min)

# JULY 1993

Sunday 4th 2.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the New River: Manor House to Highbury (about 2 hours). Meet at Manor House tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 4th (all day)	BOROUGH OF EALING	EALING COUNTRYSIDE DAY at Horsenden Hill. Nearest tube, Sudbury Town. Admission free. Contact 081-758 5916.
Sunday 4th 1pm to 6pm	LEE VALLEY PARK	With BW MIDSUMMER MADNESS activities afternoon at Middlesex Filter Beds (5 mins along the towpath from the Prince of Wales, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, E10).
Sunday 4th	LEANDER (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUTS	REGATTA in Teddington Reach
Friday 9th (evening)	BOROUGH OF EALING	CANAL CRUISE from Horsenden Hill and return. £5. Advance bookings only. Contact 081-758 5916
Saturday 10th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	CANAL AND DOCKLANDS EXPLORER: Boat trip followed by coach trip around Docklands. £12.00 (Concessions £10.50). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Saturday 10th Weekend 10th/11th	KINGSTON REGATTA LONDON WRG	DIG on the Wey and Arun Canal. Contact: Martin Ludgate (081-693 3266)
Weekend 10th/11th	BRENTFORD CARNIVAL AND BOAT RALLY	At Boston Manor Park. Nearest tube Boston Manor. Contact Marion Scott (60 Layton Road, Brentford, Middx. TW8 0PD)
Weekend 10th/11th	HERTS YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICE	WOMEN ON THE WATER—Women-only activity days at Herts Young Mariners Base, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt. (2 mins walk from Cheshunt BR). £5 per person per day for Herts Youth Club members, £15 for others. Book in advance: 0707-281460.
Sunday 11th 11am to 5pm	BRITISH WATERWAYS	WARE WATERSPORTS DAY. Meet at Ware Priory, Priory St, Ware (5 mins from Ware BR). Free, apart from boat trips.
Tuesday 13th 6.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Islington to Mile End (about 2 hours). Meet at Angel tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Wednesday 14th 6.45pm	RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	CANAL WALK on the Regent's Canal, Hertford Union and River Lee from Bethnal Green to Clapton. Meet at Bethnal Green Tube Station. No charge. Time 2 or 3 hours.
Saturday 17th 7pm	LEE VALLEY PARK	A TRIP BACK IN TIME by boat to Rye House. Meet at Lee Valley Boat Centre car park, Old Nazeing Road, Broxbourne (5 mins from Broxbourne BR). £5 adults, £4 concessions. Book in advance: 0992-713838
Saturday 17th Sunday 18th 2.30pm	MOLESEY REGATTA <b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Paddington to Camden (about 2 hours). Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 18th	BRITISH WATERWAYS	CANALS 200 EVENT at Little Venice. Contact BW London Canals (071-286 6101)
Tuesday 20th	ROYAL MAIL	Launch to stamps to commemorate Canals 200. Contact Colin Terry (071-239 2700)
Wednesday 21st	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	DAY CRUISE from Camden Lock to Limehouse and back. £9.50 (Concessions £8.50). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Wednesday 21st to Sunday 25th	PERFORMANCE ARTS FESTIVAL	At Camley Street Natural Park, St Pancras. Nearest tube King's Cross. Contact 071-833 2311

Saturday 24th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	DAY CRUISE from Camden Lock to Limehouse and back. £9.50 (Concessions £8.50). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Weekend 24th/25th	BW, LEE VALLEY PARK & BROXBORNE LEISURE SERVICES	BROXBORNE WATER FESTIVAL at Lee Valley Leisure Pool, Old Nazeing Road, Broxbourne (5 mins from Broxbourne BR). Free admission. Parking £2. Dragon boat race entry forms from 0992-628403.
Sunday 25th	LONDON RIVER YACHT CLUB—REGATTA near Raven's Ait	
Monday 26th to Friday 30th	SUMMER STORYBOAT—Children's activities on and by the river. 10am to 5pm daily. Bring a picnic. Free. Meet at the Storyboat:	Monday: Hartham Common, off Mill Rd, Hertford Tuesday: Sacred Heart School, Ware Wednesday: near Stanstead Abbots Marina Thursday: near Fish & Eels pub, Broxbourne Friday: opposite Highbridge car park, Station Road, Waltham Abbey.
Tuesday 27th 6.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Mile End to Limehouse (about 2 hours). Meet at Mile End tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Wednesday 28th 6.45pm	RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	CANAL WALK on the Regent's Canal from Camden to Cambridge Heath. Meet at Camden Town Tube Station. No charge. Time 2 or 3 hours.
Saturday 31st 12 noon	GRAND UNION CANAL SOCIETY	Natter'n'noggin at the Horse and Barge, Moorhall Rd, Harefield Moor, alongside GU bridge 180. Followed by a short towpath walk. Contact Ian Wilson (081-578 3353)
Weekend 31 July/1 August	LONDON WRG	DIG: venue to be announced. Contact: Lesley McFadyen (081-693 3266 evgs)
Weekend 31 July/1 August	EAST LONDON RIVERS INITIATIVE	HOUSE MILL RE-OPENING Re-opening following restoration. Ring cruise. Meet at Three Mills, E3 (near Tesco). Book in advance: 081-472 1450 ext. 26268.

## AUGUST 1993

Sunday 1st 2.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the New River: Highbury to Angel (about 2 hours). Meet at Highbury and Islington tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school summer holidays,	ADVENTURESS CRUISES	2pm to 4.30pm CHILDREN'S CRUISE AND FARM VISIT—Meet at Sawbridgeworth Maltings, Station Road, Sawbridgeworth. £4 adult, £3 child. Book in advance: 0279-600848.
Saturday 7th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	CANAL AND DOCKLANDS EXPLORER: Boat trip followed by coach trip around Docklands. £12.00 (Concessions £10.50). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Saturday 7th (evening)	BOROUGH OF EALING	CANAL CRUISE AND PICNIC Start and finish at Hanwell locks. £5. Advance bookings only. Contact 081-758 5916
Sunday 8th 11.30am to 3pm	BOROUGH OF NEWHAM	LOWER LEE STROLL along the towpaths of the River Lee and Bow Back Rivers. Meet at Bromley-by-Bow Tube station. Free. Pub lunch stop.
Tuesday 10th 2.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the New River: Manor House to Highbury (about 2 hours). Meet at Manor House tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 10th 8pm	MIKRON THEATRE	Performance of 'Imogen's War' at 'The Cabbage Patch', 67 London Road, Twickenham. Sponsored by IWA London Branch.
Wednesday 11th 6.45pm	RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	CANAL WALK on the River Lee from Hackney to Tottenham. Meet at Hackney Wick BR Station. No charge. Time 2 or 3 hours.

Thursday 12th 8pm	MIKRON THEATRE	Performance of 'The Threads of Revolution' at the London Canal Museum, 12/13 New Wharf Rd, N1 9RT. Sponsored by Michael Stimpson & Associates.
Friday 13th 7.30pm	MIKRON THEATRE	Performance of 'Imogen's War' at 'The Shovel', Iver Lane, Cowley Lock, Near Uxbridge. Sponsored by Marine Engine Services Ltd and IWA Middlesex Section.
Sunday 15th 6.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Camden to Islington (about 2 hours). Meet at Camden Town tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 15th	COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICE	CIRCULAR WALK including part of the River Stort towpath and a pub lunch. Meet at Pishiobury Park car park (off the A1184 between Harlow and Sawbridgeworth). Free, excluding lunch.
Saturday 21st	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	CANAL AND DOCKLANDS EXPLORER: Boat trip followed by coach trip around Docklands. £12.00 (Concessions £10.50). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Saturday 21st 7pm	LEE VALLEY PARK	BOAT TRIP and BARBECUE. Meet at Lee Valley Boating Centre, Old Nazeing Road, Broxbourne (5 mins from Broxbourne BR). £9.50 adults, £8 concessions. Book in advance: 0992-713838.
Tuesday 24th 6.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Paddington to Camden (about 2 hours). Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Wednesday 25th 6.45pm	RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	CANAL WALK on the River Lee from Hackney to Tottenham. Meet at Hackney Wick BR Station. No charge. 2 or 3 hours.
Monday 30th 11am/2pm	HERTS YOUNG MARINERS BASE	DRAGON BOAT PADDLE between Cheshunt and Broxbourne. No previous experience needed. Morning: meet at Herts Young Mariners Base, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt to paddle upstream to Broxbourne. Afternoon: meet at Broxbourne Boat Centre, Old Nazeing Road, Broxbourne for the return trip. £2.50 adult, £2 child. Book in advance: 0992-628403.

## SEPTEMBER 1993

Sunday 5th 2.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Islington to Mile End (about 2 hours). Meet at Angel tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Weekend 11th/12th	LONDON WRG	DIG on the Wey and Arun Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Sunday 12th	SMALL BOAT CLUB	Inter-Club single handed competition at Kingston
Tuesday 14th 8pm	<b>LONDON IWA Middlesex Section</b>	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Speaker, David Daines: 'Historic narrowboats'. Contact: Alison Strucket (0344-774228)
Thursday 16th 7 for 7.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA</b>	SOCIAL MEETING at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BU. Speaker on <i>Springfield Basin Restoration</i> . Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926).
Weekend 18th/19th	EALING CANAL CELEBRATION—Contact 081-758 5916	
Sunday 19th 2.30pm	<b>LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'</b>	GUIDED WALK on the Regent's Canal: Mile End to Limehouse (about 2 hours). Meet at Mile End tube station. £4 (concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Friday 24th	<b>LONDON IWA</b>	SOCIAL MEETING at 'The Royal Tavern', Mottingham (corner of Court Rd and Sidcup Rd: very close to Mottingham BR station). Speaker to be arranged. Contact: Dorothy Robbie (081-857 6367).
Sunday 26th	BRITISH MOTOR YACHT CLUB	Annual Sailing Open Meeting in Hampton Court Reach.

# Late News

## **YET MORE DELAYS!**

Having apologised on page 3 for what a modest delay in producing this issue, it then ran into more problems in the form of a breakdown by the Editorial computer. And that delayed things until Alan Cheal, our typesetter, was about to go on holiday! So I'm afraid that about the first page of *Waterways Events* will be past history by the time you read this. Many apologies. The next issue should reach you in mid-September.

## **BODY IN THE CUT**

Towards the end of May a box floating in the Paddington Branch of the G.U. in Harlesden was found to contain the body of a young man from Croydon who went missing from home in early February. Police have been contacting boaters who used that section of canal between the two dates. If anyone knows anything that might be of use, they are invited to contact Croydon Police Station.

## **THE B.W. BILL**

At the time of writing, this is going through its Committee stage in the House of Commons. Since the House of Lords stages, a lot of negotiation has taken place between BW and the various petitioners against the Bill, with the result that a number of very significant amendments have been agreed, including the total deletion of two of the more troublesome clauses. One of these would have given BW the power to sell off subsidiary concerns, and the other extinguished all unused rights given to landowners etc in the various Enabling Bills for waterways. As a result of undertakings to make these and other changes, several petitions against the Bill, including that from the IWA, have been withdrawn. Many of us who have been actively campaigning against aspects of the Bill now feel that the Bill is no longer the major threat it once was, but rather something that, at the worst, can be lived with or, at the best, is a modest step forward.

## **MOORINGS IN UXBRIDGE**

Hillingdon Canal Club, who host our Middlesex Section meetings, have some non-residential moorings available at their Uxbridge base on the Grand Union (southwards from the boatyard opposite the *General Elliott*). Further information is available from Malcolm Knight on 0895-254308.

## **NEW N.E. LONDON VENUE**

Beginning in October, our social meetings in N.E. London will move to a new venue, on board the trip-boat *Hazelmere* at its base just below Waltham Town Lock on the River Lee. This is actually just outside our Branch & Region boundary, but we have checked with Chelmsford Branch and S.E. Region, neither of whom object to our "trespassing" on their patch. More details will be in our next issue.

## **REGION CO-OPTION**

Since the Committee list on page 2 went to press, Vernon Draper has been co-opted as an extra member of the Region Committee.

## **THE HOUSE MILL RE-OPENING : JULY 31 & 1 AUGUST.**

More details of this are now to hand. The boaters' gathering will cost £7 to enter, and will include a cruise of Limehouse Cut and Basin, parts of the Regent's Canal and Lee Navigation and "Duckett's". The event will be open to the general public from 11.30 am to 4.30 pm each day, at a charge of £1.50 (concessions 75p). The Miller's House and the site of the National Fairground Museum will be open. Boat entry forms and more details from Marion Waters on 081-472 1450 x 26268.

## **LONDON WRG UP-DATE**

The dig on the weekend of 31 July & 1 August (listed in our *Waterways Events* pages as "to be announced") will be on the Hereford & Gloucester Canal, and is being organised by Lesley McFadyen (081-693 3266 : evenings).

## **CANALWAY CAVALCADE**

We need a few more people to join the organising team for 1994. Our 1993 Co-ordinators (for Site & Services, Boats, Publicity, Trade & Sponsorship), are all happy to continue, as are our Director (Libby Bradshaw) and Treasurer but we'd like some more volunteers to help with the organisation: most importantly we are looking for a Deputy Director to assist Libby with some of the correspondence involved. Contact Libby ('phone number on page 2) if you're interested.