

Excalibur

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

NUMBER 12, AUTUMN 1993

Editor: Mike Stevens, 333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS—Telephone: 081-674 9387



*Boats at Three Mills during the Limehouse Basin Re-opening Rally (story pp 4-5).
Since then, the House Mill re-opening gathering has also taken place.*

Photo: Mike Stevens

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From the Branch Chairman and Editor

INTRODUCING 'SMALLSWORD'

This issue sees the launch of *SMALLSWORD*, our new section for younger readers. We've produced it (this time at any rate) as a pull-out section so that you can detach it and give it to the youngsters without spoiling the rest of your *Excalibur*. We think it's important to catch the interest of young people and try to get them involved in the waterways. They are the enthusiasts, the WRGlies, the campaigners of the future. Look around at any IWA meeting and you'll find, on average, a depressingly middle-aged audience. The Association's Waterways for Youth campaign is trying to do something about this. Now with *SMALLSWORD* we are trying to play our part.

I hope that this first appearance of *SMALLSWORD* will prompt some feed-back from younger readers. Let us know what you would like to read about. As in the rest of *Excalibur*, we can only give you what you want if we know what you want.

IWA's NEGLECTED WATERWAY?

What is London's biggest waterways event each year? One that gets massive crowds, a big build-up in the Press, guaranteed live TV coverage on Saturday afternoon with repeats on the evening news and photos in all the Sunday papers? No; not Canalway Cavalcade, but the boat-race. And where's IWA's presence? It is, after all, an event on an inland waterway.

There was an interesting discussion at a recent Branch Committee Meeting about our involvement (or lack of involvement) with the Thames. There is one of Britain's most important waterways running through the middle of our Branch area, and we spend all our time (or so it seems) talking about canals.

One problem is that although our Branch/Region boundary for membership purposes is that of the London Boroughs, for obvious practical reasons the boundary of the part of the Thames we 'look after' was set at Teddington, so we are responsible only for the tideway. I'm not sure how many private boaters are based on the tideway, but I doubt whether many of them regard themselves as primarily inland cruising boats. Some probably think of themselves more as coastal than inland boaters, others as people who happen simply to live on boats. But the Thames is a focus for an immense number of tourists, and we ought to do something to bring I.W.A. to their attention. Your Branch Committee would welcome suggestions about how this could be achieved.

The Thames tideway is, of course, an important route for inland shipping, and I hope to bring you more news of that, via our Region Inland Shipping Committee, in a future issue of *Excalibur*.

HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD (well, Brum)

I'm writing this Editorial afloat on the B.C.N. on our own 'Use 'em or lose 'em' cruise. It's very noticeable that while the Main Line is quite busy with boats, on the rest of the B.C.N. it is still rare to meet another moving boat. This is a great pity, since work is clearly going on to improve the conditions off the Main Line. Those of you who know the Wyrley and Essington, but may not have visited it for some time, will be pleased to hear that it has obviously benefitted from a major clean-up. The half of it nearer to Wolverhampton used to be really messy only three or four years ago; this week we have found it almost totally rubbish-free, revealing the potential it always had as a really attractive cruising waterway. I wish I could say the same for the Tame Valley and the Walsall; let's hope they're next for the treatment.

However I was impressed with BW's response to a call-out via Freephone Canals at around 5pm last Saturday when we came across some pounds on the Ryders Green flight that had been drained by vandals. The lengthsmen was with us in about 20 minutes and worked with us cheerfully to refill the pounds, then helped us through the whole of the flight.

Mike Stevens

FUTURE ISSUES

Publication Date	Copy date
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Limehouse Re-opening Rally

Weekend May 28 – 30 at Limehouse Basin



*The masts of yachts among the narrowboats and cruisers on the rally moorings.
Canary Wharf is in the background.*

Photo: Mike Stevens

On the late Spring Bank Holiday weekend, there was a rally at Limehouse to celebrate the final full re-opening of the Basin after construction works for the new road tunnel under the basin had closed first one, then the other, entrance from the canal system. The rally was organised by the Limehouse Co-operative, a local group set up to monitor and campaign over matters concerning the redevelopment of the Basin and surrounding area. London IWA had assisted with advice from Libby Bradshaw and Ron Bingham.

Although the event had been long-planned for that particular weekend, the usual uncertainties of any construction project meant that it was not known until very close to the actual event exactly what land space would be available, so some of the larger-scale activities were shelved.

The information sent out to boaters made it clear that the main focus of activities would be on the Sunday, so the editorial battle-wagon *Felis Catus II* left Little Venice at about 11am on

Saturday and had a fairly slow run down the locks behind other Rally-bound traffic. We arrived in the Basin just after 5pm to find an interesting gathering of boats. Eventually there must have been about 40 in all. Nearly half of these were narrowboats and most of the rest were cruisers, including some that had come up from the Medway, one of them big enough to invite the description 'motor yacht'. There were also two Dutch Barge conversions and two cruising yachts. The moorings were on the new wall of the Basin alongside the roof of the tunnel, which formed a sandy 'beach' where the marquee was placed.

The first thing some of us do at any Rally is to collect our plaque. This one was a poser; round and double-sided, more like a medallion, but with no hole to take a ribbon. We still haven't decided how to mount ours! Ron and Olive Bingham gave out the boaters' information sheets, in which a casual comment of mine that a cruise round the Bow Back Rivers would be a good idea had been transmogrified into a firm plan, with me as leader!

A good social evening followed, some people barn-dancing in the marquee while others of us socialised with old and new friends on the boats.

The opening ceremony took place on Sunday lunchtime, with the official party on the Port of London Authority's launch *Royal Nore*. At zero hour, a maroon was let off from BW tug *Olton* in the middle of the pool as a signal for narrowboat *Katy B*, Dutch Barge *Azolla* and a yacht whose name I didn't spot, to enter the Basin from the three entrances and waltz around. The crew of *Royal Nore* couldn't resist joining in.

Monday morning was the scheduled time for the cruise round the Back Rivers. By Sunday evening we had started worrying about the conditions. The timing meant that the majority of the cruise would be on a falling tide; not a good idea when only part of the navigable loop has yet been dredged, and the wind conditions were estimated at force 7 in the basin. So we called a conference of all the interested boaters for 9am on Monday. The conditions then were just as bad, so as none of us fancied being blown sideways onto mud-banks, we decided on an alternative plan suggested by Ron Bingham.

At about 10am, a convoy of narrowboats, *Galatea*, *Helix*, *Stella Maris*, *Auntie Barb*, *Misbourne II* and *Coal Boy* followed the editorial battle-wagon out of the basin via the Limehouse Cut. Several of us had passengers on board as well as our own crews. We passed through Bow tide-locks at the top of the tide with all gates open and cruised to the head of Bow Creek in front of the Three Mills, 'did a twiddle' and headed back. Ron and Olive's *Coal Boy* went a little way up Abbey Creek, but not very far as the tide was now falling. Back through Bow Locks, this time in operation, we continued a little way up the Lee Navigation to moor by Three Mills Bridge, where the more energetic members (most of those who had taken part in the convoy) allowed me to give them a preview of the Bow Back Rivers guided walk that is going into the IWA/London Walks repertoire this Autumn. We then said goodbye to the company and headed North for a week's pleasant cruising on the Lee and Stort.

It had been a small, low-key rally with very few of the public in attendance. But it had marked the occasion and had been a pleasant social event. There is already talk of another one, possibly the weekend before the National in 1994.

Mike Stevens



*Where we decided not to go.
Dredging in progress on the Bow Back Rivers in March this year.
Photo: Tim Lewis*

From the Region Chairman – Mike Stimpson

'NATIONALS' THIS YEAR AND TO COME

Here we all are, safely back in London after yet another successful National Waterways Festival. The waterway that we were on at Peterborough made an interesting change, although I personally will never grumble again at a BWB lock. I am sure that all of you who went had a most enjoyable time and I would like to take this opportunity to thank on the Region's behalf all our members who helped, both with the National effort and with the London Branch stand there.

We now face up to next year's National, which is just outside our area at Waltham Abbey. As you will have read in the last issue of *Excalibur*, volunteers are required now to help with the event. Although the long-term discussions with the relevant authorities have been going on for some time, we are now at the stage where committees have been formed and seats need to be filled. Nearer the time, of course, we shall need lots of volunteers to help over the weekend itself, but at the present we are looking for people to assist with long-term administration.

The 1994 event will in fact be held on the territory of the SE Region and it will be sometime before the National comes our way again. We hope to make a bid to have it in the London Region and Ian Ferguson is actively looking at potential sites which we may recommend to National Waterways Festivals for consideration.

SOCIAL MEETINGS

Between now and next Summer we will be holding a series of meetings at Hazlemere Marina in Waltham Abbey on the first Tuesday of the month, following the successful pattern which led to the formation of our Middlesex Section. The Outer London meetings which have been held over the last two years to supplement the Central London meetings have met mixed results. Some venues have not proved popular with you, the membership, whereas others have been far more successful. I hope that members in the NE of London will attempt to make a regular note in their diary on the first Tuesday of every month. Why not bring your friends with you? Details of the first few of these meetings are on pages 13-15.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that many of your committee members spend a lot of time organising the social meetings, and very often are trying to think up yet another new idea for an evening. In addition to your membership of the IWA you may well belong to another group or groups and be able to input some ideas: we would be glad to hear from you, especially if you have a subject on which you are willing to talk.

HOW MANY HATS CAN ONE WEAR?

Returning to the subject of the Peterborough National, it might be wrong to mention some people and not others, but I would particularly like to thank the London Region Secretary, the London Branch Treasurer, one of the London Branch Sales Officers and the Mooring Manager for the 1994 National for all the work put in not only at Peterborough but at all the events the Branch Stand has attended this year—well done, Rosie! Yes, the four positions are all held by the same person, which leads me to the point that this is not uncommon and, whilst no individual task is overwhelming in itself, adding three or four hats together can sometimes burden an individual. I know this is a common plea, but we would be grateful for members to come forward with offers to help with some of the committee work—it is your waterways we're trying to look after.

CANALWAY CAVALCADE AGAIN

Finally a repeated word of thanks to Libby Bradshaw and the Canalway Cavalcade team. I was just in time to congratulate them in the last *Excalibur* (there is always a gap between sending off one's input to the Editor and the final document arriving on your doorstep), but at that stage it was not clear quite how successful the event had been. Naturally any event has minor hiccups and part of the measure of success is how efficiently the team deals with any problems that arise. This year a major problem arose at an early stage when we learnt that we had lost the help of a previously very important sponsor. There was the possibility of a successful event being held but being a financial loss. I am pleased to say that this potential disaster did not occur, thanks to additional necessary hard work being put in by the team.

THANKS

Being your Region Chairman means that I am the Region's representative on IWA National Council. However, once there, you end up wearing a number of other hats (we're back to that one again!) which means that the running of the Region and its Branches and Sections is very dependent on the hard work of the members of all the committees which make up the Region. Despite the trauma of birth and inevitable growing pains, things seem to be running smoothly, thanks mainly to the efforts of all those committee members. Again I would like to thank them all on your behalf and again to ask if any of you would like to join the happy team. (We are happy; honest!)

AND FINALLY...

...as we approach the winter meeting season, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. I shall certainly attend most, if not all, of the Hazlemere Marina meetings, the majority of the Middlesex Section meetings and will try to get to as many of the S.E. London, Croydon and Central meetings as possible.



Smallsword

The Younger Persons View of our Inland Waterways

Issue 1

Autumn 1993

WELCOME

This is the first issue of the newsletter for those members of the IWA who are young enough to be allowed to enjoy Waterways for Youth activities.

This is your magazine, what do you want to read about? What competitions would you like? We don't know, so why don't you write to us at the address on the back page, and tell us what you want?

DESIGN A WATERWAY CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

We have prizes for the best Waterways Christmas cards designed by someone under 8, someone aged 8-11 and someone aged 12-16. Send your design (which should not be bigger than 30cm x 20cm) with your name, age and address on the back to:

Smallsword Christmas Card Competition,
c/o 58 Blurton Road, Clapton, London, E5 0NJ.

Entries must be received by 21st November 1993.

Waterways For Youth

Did you go to the National Waterways Festival at Peterborough?

Waterways for Youth did, and hundreds of younger members entered the passport scheme.

They collected their passports from Waterways For Youth and found that they could try lots of waterway activities, and that they didn't have to pay to try them!

There were traditional canal painting, knot tying, digger driving, an Inland Shipping quiz and many other activities on offer.

Those people who completed most of the activities won a Waterways for Youth Baseball cap and a goodie bag.

Waterways for Youth has been at many IWA events this year, and will be at many of the IWA events next year. You can find out which events by looking in SMALLSWORD.

Waterside Conservation

We are very lucky as we have a lot of inland waterways in this country. Some of them are suitable for boats. Many of them are not. All of them need to be looked after. It is very nice to find a nice waterway with lots of trees and wild flowers along it. Then because the wild flowers are there you find birds and butterflies.

All of this can be spoilt if we do not look after the waterway. The IWA tries to make sure that the waterways are not spoilt by things like people pushing shopping trolleys into the water, or lorries dropping rubbish into the water. Have you ever seen rubbish in a canal, river or stream near you? The IWA can only help to keep our waterways how we would like them if we all help.

When you are near a waterway look around. See if there has been any rubbish dumped. If you are on a waterway with a towing path check if it is clear, or if it is being washed away. Then let the IWA know.

The IWA needs your eyes. Every extra pair of eyes is like an extra waterside conservation policeman. What you can tell the IWA will help the IWA to make sure that our waterways are looked after for all of us.

If you see something that you think the IWA should know about remember where it is then either telephone us on 081-985 4507, or write to us at 58 Blurton Road, Clapton, London E5 0NJ.

Wordsearch Puzzle

P	C	O	W	L	E	Y	Q	H	A	C	K	N	E	Y
D	A	R	T	F	O	R	D	W	A	E	I	R	T	Y
K	J	D	H	F	D	N	S	M	A	P	N	O	I	U
P	L	E	D	Z	X	C	D	V	N	B	G	N	M	Q
U	O	E	G	I	I	E	U	O	Y	T	S	R	E	W
T	X	P	C	D	N	A	T	S	N	D	C	F	G	H
N	C	B	X	I	I	G	Z	L	K	Z	R	J	H	L
E	V	B	R	N	N	R	T	M	Q	W	O	E	R	L
Y	P	O	I	I	U	E	B	O	Y	T	S	O	K	A
A	S	D	L	F	D	G	V	Y	N	H	S	C	J	H
C	X	S	L	O	U	G	H	E	E	Z	I	L	K	X
V	I	B	N	M	N	Q	E	W	L	W	E	R	T	U
H	G	F	D	I	S	A	P	O	S	T	I	U	Y	A
J	B	K	K	R	A	P	A	I	R	O	T	C	I	V
W	O	O	L	W	I	C	H	L	Z	X	C	I	V	B
R	W	E	W	Q	M	C	H	T	E	B	M	A	L	N

Can you find all these places on London's Waterways in this wordsearch puzzle?

BOW
CAMDEN
CHISWICK
COWLEY
DARTFORD
HACKNEY
ISLINGTON
LITTLE VENICE
LAMBETH
LONDON ZOO
KINGS CROSS
PADDINGTON
PUTNEY
SLOUGH
UXBRIDGE
VAUXHALL
VICTORIA PARK
WEYBRIDGE
WOKING
WOOLWICH

If you can find them fill in your name and address and send the completed wordsearch puzzle to us.

The first two correct answers out of the hat on November 21st will win a prize.

Send your puzzle to: Wordsearch, c/o Ian Ferguson, 58 Blurton Road, Clapton, London E5 0NJ

Don't forget to post it!

Name:Age:.....

Street:

Town:

County:

Have you got a Brother or Sister? Why not ask your Mum or Dad to photocopy this page so that your Brother or Sister can enter the competition as well?

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**Arthur Bennett
Marina Manager
(Mooring Enquiry IWA1)
Willowtree Marina
West Quay Drive
Yeading Middx UB4 9TB
Tel: 081-841-6585**

On the Metreau

News and Gossip of London's Waterways

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

IWA needs more members. At National level, Ulick Palmer (Chairman of SW Region) has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Association and has been given special responsibility for membership. Branches have been asked to appoint a Recruitment Officer, who need not be the same person as the Membership Secretary whose job is to with people who already belong. Watch this space for our Branch appointment in this new and important capacity.

MOORINGS AVAILABLE

St Pancras Cruising Club has some non-residential moorings (for boats up to 42ft) available at their base at St Pancras Basin. Anybody interested is invited to contact Roger Squires on 071-232 0987. Which reminds me that the towpath telegraph tells me that Roger's boat *Squirrel* has recently been fitted with the new Ostec design of low-wash bow. Keep an eye out for it and see if the design lives up to its intention; perhaps Roger will tell us about it when he's had it long enough to have formed a view.

200 CLUB

Have you joined the London Branch 200 Club? For only £1 per month, you will be included in a draw which takes place six times a year, with cash prizes. Contact Sue Blake or Dorothy Robbie (phone numbers on page 2).

APRIL WINNERS

- £60 No.229 Mr E Heron Morden
- £30 No.209 Mr T P O'Hare Heathfield
- £15 No.56 Ms R Limming Uxbridge
- £15 No.253 Ms M Waters Wanstead

MILE-POST APPEAL UP-DATE

Jennifer Thomas writes: 'In case you're wondering—yes! The Milepost Appeal did reach its target of £4,000, so all the missing mileposts will be replaced in the bicentenary year (see especially nos 93 at Brentford and 87 at Common Moor Lock). Since Canalway Cavalcade, the Appeal has been *everywhere*, reaching its target at the Bulbourne Weekend in July. Currently the foundry in Northampton is casting, and the posts will be put on the

working pair *Bletchley* and *Argus* at Stoke Bruerne on Monday 20 September for their journey to Marsworth where BW will paint and install them.

Many of you will know that a map of the Grand Union which adorned the illuminated cavalcade was commandeered and became our star attraction; a Grand Union Line of Pennies. It will make its final appearance at the National (again illuminated), so look out for the Mileposts.'

LONDON AFLOAT 1994

Look out for this title. We plan to use it a lot next year. It will start off as the theme for 1994's Canalway Cavalcade in May. Then we hope to use it to label a whole range of events in the couple of weeks before and after the National Waterways Festival at Waltham Abbey over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The suggestion is that we publicise these to boaters on their way to and from the 'National' and offer them the opportunity of joining in. Plans, as yet, are at an early stage, but Branch and Region Committees are considering a proposal to make some sort of plaque or certificate available for people taking part in more than a stated number of events. The proposal envisages events under the 'London Afloat' banner will not all necessarily be organised by IWA but might well include events organised by other bodies. All suggestions will be most welcome.

BOW BACK RIVERS

At a recent meeting of the Lower Lea Project, your Editor was in the group who were shown plans for two footpath improvements in the area, both of which are scheduled to take place during the current financial year. The first is the Long Wall path (not actually a towpath) beside Abbey Creek/Channelsea River between Prescott Channel and the Northern Outfall Sewer. At this point it will connect with the other path, which is the next stage of the improvement of the footpath along the top of the Sewer embankment. This stage will go from the A11 some way beyond the Channelsea River. Meanwhile, the Northern half of the 'navigable loop' of the Back Rivers having been dredged, a bid has been lodged for funding to dredge the Southern half.

Waterways Events in and around London

SEPTEMBER 1993

Sunday 5th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: ISLINGTON TO MILE END. Meet at Angel tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Thursday 9th 8pm	CHELMSFORD IWA	At AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Speaker: Bob Kearney <i>The Stowmarket Navigation</i> . Contact: Molly Beard (0702-553392)
Saturday 11th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	Day cruise from Brentford to Little Venice. £15 (Concessions £13). Advance bookings only. Contact 071-482 2550
Saturday 11th	BRITISH WATERWAYS	All-day Canals 200 event at the Colne Valley Park Centre, Iver. Contact 0895-835852
Weekend 11th/12th	LONDON WRG	Dig on the Wey and Arun Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Sunday 12th	COLNE VALLEY GROUNDWORK TRUST	SLOUGH CANAL OPEN DAY at Bloom Park, Middle Green Road, Middle Green, Langley, Bucks.
Tuesday 14th 8pm	LONDON IWA: MIDDLESEX SECTION	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Speaker: David Daines: <i>Historic narrowboats</i> . Contact: Alison Struckett (0344-774228)
Thursday 16th 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA: CENTRAL LONDON	SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Speaker: Doug Beard: <i>Restoration of Springfield Basin</i> . Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Saturday 18th	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 18th/19th	EALING CANAL CELEBRATION	At Elthorne Park, Hanwell (nearest tube, Boston Manor). Contact 081-758 5916
Sunday 19th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: MILE END TO LIMEHOUSE. Meet at Mile End tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 19th	CHELMSFORD IWA	Cruise on the River Stort. Contact : Molly Beard (0702-553392)
Tuesday 21st 8pm	HERTS IWA	Meeting at Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City. Speaker: Caroline Clarke: <i>Dutch Waterways</i> . Contact Greta Wright (0727-860137)
Wednesday 22nd (evening)	GRAND UNION CANAL SOCIETY	Meeting at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Speaker: Revd. Roger Davis.
Friday 24th 8pm	LONDON IWA: S.E. LONDON	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

OCTOBER 1993

Weekend 2nd/3rd	LONDON WRG	Dig on the Wilts and Berks Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Sunday 3rd 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE BOW BACK RIVERS AND THREE MILLS. Meet at Bomley-by-Bow tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

Tuesday 5th 8pm	LONDON IWA: LEE GROUP	SOCIAL MEETING at Hazelmere Marine, Highbridge St, Waltham Abbey (off Station Road). Speaker: Michael Stimpson: <i>The work of the IWA</i> . Contact: Mike Stimpson (0923-770425).
Tuesday 12th 8pm	LONDON IWA: MIDDLESEX SECTION	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Speaker: Bob Bossine: <i>Steam Engines</i> . Contact: Alison Struckett (0344-774228)
Thursday 14th 8pm	CHELMSFORD IWA	At AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Speaker: John Morgan: <i>The River Medway</i> . Contact: Molly Beard (0702-553392)
Weekend 16th/17th		LONDON DOCKLANDS NARROWBOAT GATHERING at Canary Quay. Contact: Ray Bown, Streethay Wharf, Lichfield. (0543-414808).
Sunday 17th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE NEW RIVER: MANOR HOUSE TO Highbury. Meet at Manor House tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 19th 8pm	HERTS IWA	Meeting at Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lanne, Welwyn Garden City. Speaker: Colin Eastmen: <i>Grand Union 200 Birthday</i> . Contact Greta Wright (0727-860137)
Wednesday 20th 8pm	LONDON IWA: CROYDON	SOCIAL MEETING at the Ship Inn, High Street, Croydon (Just South of the central pedestrian area: 10 mins walk from either East Croydon or West Croydon BR). Speaker: Mike Stevens: <i>The B.C.N.</i> Contact: Mike Stevens (081-674 9387)
Thursday 21st 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA: CENTRAL LONDON	SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Speaker: Nigel Sadler: <i>Waterways of the Middle East</i> . Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Weekend 23rd/24th	LONDON WRG	Dig on the Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)

NOVEMBER 1993

Tuesday 2nd 8pm	LONDON IWA: LEE GROUP	SOCIAL MEETING at Hazelmere Marine, Highbridge St, Waltham Abbey (off Station Road). Speaker: Brian Daubney: <i>The House Mill Project</i> . Contact: Mike Stimpson (0923-770425).
Weekend 6th/7th	LONDON WRG	Dig on the Wendover Arm. Contact: Martin Ludgate (081-693 3266)
Sunday 7th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE NEW RIVER: Highbury TO ANGEL. Meet at Highbury and Islington tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 9th 8pm	LONDON IWA: MIDDLESEX SECTION	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Speaker: Doug Beard: <i>Restoration of Springfield Basin</i> . Contact: Alison Struckett (0344-774228)
Thursday 11th 8pm	CHELMSFORD IWA	At AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Speaker: Alan Jervis: <i>Up the Monty</i> . Contact: Molly Beard (0702-553392)
Thursday 15th 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA: CENTRAL LONDON	SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Speaker (subject to confirmation): Colin Powell: <i>The Neath and Tennant Canals</i> . Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Tuesday 16th 8pm	HERTS IWA	Meeting at Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lanne, Welwyn Garden City. Speaker: Jim Norfolk: <i>Oliver Twist goes to London</i> . Contact Greta Wright (0727-860137)

Sunday 21st 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: PAD- DINGTON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Friday 26th 8pm	LONDON IWA: S.E. LONDON	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)

DECEMBER 1993

Weekend 4th/5th	LONDON WRG	Dig on the Basingstoke Canal. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-539 7926)
Sunday 5th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: CAMDEN TO ISLINGTON. Meet at Camden Town tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 7th 8pm	LONDON IWA: LEE GROUP	SOCIAL MEETING at Hazelmere Marine, Highbridge St, Waltham Abbey (off Station Road). Speaker to be arranged. Contact: Mike Stimpson (0923-770425).
Wednesday 8th 8pm	LONDON IWA: CROYDO	SOCIAL MEETING at the Ship Inn, High Street, Croydon (Just South of the central pedestrian area: 10 mins walk from either East Croydon or West Croydon BR). Speaker to be arranged. Contact: Mike Stevens (081-674 9387)
Thursday 9th 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA: CENTRAL LONDON	SOCIAL MEETING at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith St, SW1P 3BU. Quiz and Auction. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926)
Thursday 9th 8pm	CHELMSFORD IWA	At AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Christmas Social. Contact: Molly Beard (0702-553392)
Tuesday 14th 8pm	LONDON IWA: MIDDLESEX SECTION	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Christmas Party. Contact: Alison Struckett (0344-774228)
Sunday 19th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE BOW BACK RIVERS AND THREE MILLS. Meet at Bromley-by-Bow tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 21st 8pm	HERTS IWA	Meeting at Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lanne, Welwyn Garden City. Members' Christmas Social and Supper. Contact Greta Wright (0727-860137)
Tuesday 24th 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: PAD- DINGTON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3) Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

Late News

EXCALIBUR WINS AWARD

Excalibur has won the *Canal and Riverboat* Tom Rolt Award in the category for IWA Branch and Region magazines. The judges for the award were David Stevenson (National Chairman of IWA), Harry Arnold (Editor of *IWA Waterways*) and Norman Alborough (Editor of *Canal and Riverboat*, which sponsors the award). Norman Alborough presented your Editor with a £100 cheque for the Branch at the awards ceremony on August Bank Holiday at the National Waterways Festival at Peterborough.

I should like to thank everyone who helps with *Excalibur* for their part in winning us this award, particularly our printer, Richard Bird, and our typesetter, Alan Cheal, a previous winner of the Rolt Awards for his work on *Panchat*, the magazine of St Pancras Cruising Club.

This year the Rolt Awards category for Canal Society magazines was won by the Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society and that for boat club magazines by the Dunstable and District Boat Club.

OTHER FESTIVAL NEWS

London Branch members were very much in evidence at the "National". In addition to our own Sales Stand, this year we had the task of staffing the booth dealing with boat entries for next year's Festival at Waltham Abbey. Many thanks to those members who gave time to help in either capacity. The handbill included in our last issue suggesting a coach-trip to the Festival from London produced a number of responses, and two mini-bus loads of members were taken, one each on the Saturday and Sunday. Our Region Chairman, Mike Stimpson there in a triple capacity: as a member of IWA Council, as a boater and as an exhibitor in the Trade Show.

Circumstances prevented the editorial boat *Felis Catus II* from getting to Peterborough, and I should like to thank Sue and Colin Blake who accommodated me on *Fidei* for the duration at rather short notice.

Two boats, Vernon & Marie Draper's *Cleopatra II* and the Russell family's *Auntie Barb*, competed in the illuminated boats event with improved versions of their entries from Canalway Cavalcade. *Cleopatra II* carried the display of the Grand Junction Milepost Appeal, with SOLD OUT stickers across it to denote that the appeal has reached its target (see page 12 of this issue). This was highly fancied by some of the spectators as the winner of the event, but was beaten by the entry from the Warwickshire Youth Clubs. Meanwhile on the Festival Camp Site, Ian Ferguson was once again in the illuminated camper competition.

MOTTINGHAM UP-DATE

Since the *Waterways Events* pages went to press, we have had confirmation of the speaker for the SE London social meeting in Mottingham on 24 September. Richard Thomas will talk about the steam-powered narrowboat *President*.

ANY GIFTS FOR US ?

Yes, we're on the scrounge again, this time for donations in kind. It seems strange to be thinking of the end of the year already, but plans have to be made a long time in advance, and two annual events are on the horizon which would welcome such donations. The Branch New Year Draw needs prizes, large and small. The Central London social meeting in December will, as usual, include and auction. In addition the tombola on the Sales Stand makes a bigger profit if some of its prizes are donated. All these fund-raising activities help pay for the running of the Branch and our donations to other waterways causes, so if you have anything you would be willing to give, please contact any Branch Committee member ('phone numbers on page 2). We reserve the right to decide which of the three purposes mentioned above is the most appropriate for each individual gift.

While we're thinking about fund-raising, can I put in another plug for the Branch 200 Club? This was formed some years ago to help with the running expenses of the Branch. Hire of rooms for meetings, in particular, is an increasing expense now we have diversified our social meetings to more times and places each month, so if you'd like to join the 200 Club (as little as £1 per month), or to increase your chances of a prize by taking a second or subsequent stake, you would contribute to the cost of our activities. To join, please contact Dorothy Robbie or Sue Blake (see page 2).

ADVERTISERS WANTED

With the launch of *Smallsword*, your Editor would dearly like to be able to print more pages in future issues of *Excalibur*. But this costs money. One way of paying for it would be if we could sell more advertising space. One of the best ways of doing this is through our readers' contacts. If you, or the company you work for, would be interested in advertising in our prize-winning magazine, and reaching some 2000 or so waterways enthusiasts, mainly in London, please contact Robin Bishop (address & 'phone number on page 2).