

Excalibur

THE LONDON NEWSLETTER OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 20, WINTER 1995/6

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*Tim Whitelock (seated) demonstrates painting traditional roses at the Canal Art course run by IWA North and East London Branch at the London Canal Museum in October.
A follow-up course is to be held in February (see our Waterways Events page)
Photo: Tim Lewis*

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From the Editor

THOUGHTS FROM AFAR

Wendy and I spent much of this Summer in Northern waters, including the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, where we took our very first boating holiday in a grp cruiser in 1972. There seem to be some different ways of doing things up there. On Wigan's 21 broad, deep and heavy locks (23 if you're not going to or from the Leigh Branch), one can book BW staff to help with the locks. At most other lock flights on the L&L, lock-keepers were very much in evidence, probably due to the time restrictions introduced because of the long dry summer. Nearly all of these folk were really helpful. Barry, on the Bingley 5-rise and 3-rise, is justly famous for his helpfulness. It was nice to talk to someone who had fulfilled his life's ambition. He told us that from his early teens his one ambition was to be lock-keeper on the 5-rise. He has been there for some years now and still thoroughly enjoys the job, which is very evident from the enthusiastic help he gives to all boats working through his locks.

Barrowford has another extremely helpful lock-keeper. Having missed the passage we wanted through the traffic lights controlling Foulridge Tunnel, we reached the top of the locks less than an hour before the time-restrictions said we should clear the flight. Barrowford has 7 broad locks, so we assumed we would not be allowed into the flight, with the likelihood of being a day late arriving at the National. However the lock-keeper cheerfully offered to help us through and got us through in an incredible 57 minutes.

Even more interesting was the arrangement on the Ashton Canal in Manchester. The problem there was vandalism and harassment from kids. So BW arranged an twice-daily escort service through the flight by their staff. Once again, the men involved combined helpfulness with cheerfulness.

Is there a moral here for London? We have often worried about the lack of traffic on the bottom end of the Regent's Canal, especially the stretch from the junction with the Hertford Union to Limehouse. Conversations with some visiting boaters indicate that one contributory factor is that the lower Regent's has a reputation for being 'bandit country'. This was the case some years ago but is much less so now in my view. But such reputations do tend to linger long after their justification has gone. If BW wants to encourage boaters to use this stretch, perhaps they could offer to provide assistance to boaters

wanting to go there. Certainly for those of us who boat single, or two-handed, an extra pair of hands is useful on the Regent's where quite a few of the gates tend to swing open of their own accord by the time one has walked to the other end of the lock after closing them. (I remember one occasion a few years ago at Kentish Town lock which was particularly tricky.)

I invite Mark Bensted or Peter Coyne to respond.

TIME FOR SOME CHANGES?

On page 10 you will find the notice of our Branch and Region AGMs. Already some existing office-holders are wondering about giving up or changing what they do for IWA. So if you are interested in standing for office in your Branch or the Region, now is the time to step forward and find out what posts might be coming vacant. Branch and Region Committees are usually on the lookout for fresh members and would probably be very happy to invite you to a few Committee meetings before the AGM for you to see if you really want your name to go forward. Perhaps if there is somebody who wants to step down, they might welcome somebody 'shadowing' them for a while with a view to offering themselves as a successor.

We should all be wary of assuming that just because somebody has done a job for a long time, then they necessarily want to keep on with it for ever. Too often somebody soldiers on reluctantly, thinking that there is nobody else willing to take over, while their colleagues never show any interest because they assume that 'Old X' is happy to continue. Incidentally, I've been editing *Excalibur* for nearly five years and I wouldn't mind a change this year or next if somebody else wants to have a go. I'd rather hand over before I get stale in the job.

Mike Stevens

FUTURE ISSUES

Publication date	Copy date
No. 21 Spring 1996	Now!
No. 22 Summer 1996	8 March 1996
No. 23 Autumn 1996	7 June 1996
No. 24 Winter 1996	9 Sept 1996

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

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

IWA Golden Jubilee

THE LATEST NEWS ON OUR PLANS

Jubilee Year is with us. It was launched at Chester during the 1995 National Waterways Festival and will run until the end of 1996. It will be a busy year: the national Jubilee Calendar is very full and we in London are playing an active part. The aims of the year are threefold: celebration of our past achievements, publicity for our present activities and fund-raising for our future aims.

A PUZZLING EVENT

One focus of the national celebrations will be the creation of a Jubilee Jigsaw to be displayed at the World Canals Conference in Birmingham. This will form a map of Britain with each piece of the jigsaw representing an IWA branch. Each piece will be carried by water from its home area to Birmingham. We plan to bring together all three of the London pieces (along with those from some neighbouring Branches) at Canalway Cavalcade, whence they will be carried to Birmingham by the Josher steamer *President*. There will probably also be local send-offs in each Branch. It is hoped that the Chelmsford and South London jigsaw pieces (possibly also the Kent and East Sussex piece) will be brought as far as Limehouse by one of the Thames Barge Sailing Club's barge *Pudge*, although this has not been confirmed at the time of writing.

TREASURE TROVE

Middlesex Branch launch our London events with a Treasure Hunt on Saturday 27 April, open to boats and pedestrians. Boats/teams will leave Hillingdon Canal Club (address on page 15) at 10 minute intervals from 10am. The cruise/walk is expected to last about three hours, during which competitors will be expected to stop at the occasional pub and also to collect answers to clues and questions along the way. They will return to the Canal Club in the afternoon and a social evening will end the day with a barbecue and presentation of the separate prizes for boats and walkers. There will be an entry fee of £4 per boat or team of 4 walkers (food extra!). For an entry form please send an s.a.e. to Alison Struckett (address on page 2).

CANALWAY CAVALCADE

As always, this will be IWA London Region's major event of the year, over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend at Little Venice, the junction of the Regent's Canal and Paddington Branch. This year's dates are 4-6 May and, of course, our theme will be the Golden Jubilee. There will be a detailed preview in our next issue, but all the usual elements of the Cavalcade will be there, together with the send-off of our Jubilee pieces on *President*.

CONTACTS:

Boat entries	Ann Hancox	(0181) 542 8998
Trade Show	Richard Bird	(0181) 857 6367
Publicity	Mike Stevens	(0181) 674 9387
Director	Libby Bradshaw	(0181) 874 2787

SOCIAL EVENINGS ON THE REGENT'S

The two evenings following Canalway Cavalcade will see social events on the Regent's Canal which will involve, among others, boaters on their way to the Campaign Cruise a few days later. On the Tuesday evening (7 May) North and East London Branch has arranged to move its regular Islington social to St Pancras Cruising Club, and we hope to arrange another event on the Wednesday, possibly at the London Canal Museum, but plans for this are as yet very tentative.

CAMPAIGN CRUISE

On Thursday 9 May South London Branch is organising a Campaign Cruise past Parliament to publicise the aims of IWA. Details are not yet certain, but it will mean locking out of Limehouse on the afternoon tide. This means that boaters who have been at Canalway Cavalcade the previous weekend can make the two short hops from there to the subsequent social events on the Regent's without taking those days off work, then boat to Limehouse on Thursday morning and take part in the Campaign Cruise in the afternoon, finishing at either Brentford or Teddington as suits them. We are in discussion with the Parliamentary Waterways Group about how we might involve some of their members in the occasion and have invited IWA National Chairman Audrey Smith to join us or to send a representative. For more details please contact Mike Stevens (address on page 2).

REGION JUBILEE DINNER

Saturday 11 May is the actual 50th Anniversary of IWA's first public meeting, and we hope to mark it by a Region Dinner. More details in our next issue.

The next two weekends we have left free, as many of our members will probably want to attend two other events in our area: the Rickmansworth Festival on 18/19 May and the Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs rally at Willowtree Park on 25/26 May.

BOATS, FLOUR, PORK AND GIN

Plans are progressing well for the Three Mills Festival and Rally of Boats on 1 and 2 June. This is being run by North and East London Branch in conjunction with St Pancras Cruising Club, with support from BW, the Lee Valley Park, Stratford City

Challenge, the Lower Lee Project, London Industrial Estates, the Tidal Mill Trust and others. We plan to have cruises round the Bow Back Rivers and on the Mill Pool, boat trips for the public, a craft fair, street entertainers and a lot more. The House Mill will be open for visitors. Saturday evening will see a boaters' barbecue and sing-along organised by St Pancras CC. Boat entry forms will be available in the New Year from Roger Squires, 46 Elephant Lane, Rotherhite, SE16 4JD, (s.a.e. please) and any offers of help should go to Alan Russell (address on page 2).

SOUTHERN SAILING

On Saturday 8 June, South London Branch will take part in an Open Day run by the sailing club on South Norwood Lake, the former reservoir of the Croydon Canal. This event is aimed at youngsters and we hope to run a small-scale version of the *Waterways for Youth* passport scheme as our contribution. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Llewellyn (address on page 2).

The weekend of 22/23 June sees St Pancras Cruising Club's own rally, so we have not planned any local events which would clash with it, although *Excalibur* readers not going to St Pancras may like to join IWA Chelmsford and Herts Branches on 22 June for a day of Midsummer Madness on the River Lea at Waltham Abbey. Details from Jennifer Thomas (0992) 466 180.

A WORLD-CLASS EVENT

Although not in our area, readers may like to know that the first-ever World Canals Conference, co-hosted by IWA and BW will take place in Birmingham on 26-29 June, which is when the Jubilee Jigsaw will be assembled.

RALLY ROUND

Over the weekend of 20/21 July, Middlesex Branch will hold a Golden Jubilee Boat Gathering at Willowtree Park, half-an-hour from Bull's Bridge on the Paddington Branch. More details to follow, but there will be a beer tent and Saturday evening Barn Dance. For further information contact Vernon Draper (0181) 668 5522.

A MANFUL EFFORT

On Sunday 4 August Middlesex Branch invite all members to take part in a lock-manning day at Denham Deep Lock. We will be locking boats through, talking to people about the IWA, the work that we do and trying to attract new members. Traditional dress will be the order of the day, but not a strict order.

BLACK COUNTRY BOUND

August sees a big focus in Birmingham and the Black Country. The annual BCN 24-hour marathon cruise is provisionally scheduled for the weekend of 10/11 August. The following weekend there will be a barbecue at Anglesey Basin as the start of more campaign cruising on the BCN for boats heading to the National Waterways Festival at Windmill End on the August Bank Holiday weekend. Some of us hope to get our boats up to the Midlands in time for all three of these.

YOUTH IN DOCKLANDS

On a long weekend, 26-29 September, it is hoped that London will host the national *Waterways for Youth* event in the Royal Victoria Dock. Arrangements are as yet provisional, but the contact is Adrian Steinkamp (pager no. on page 2).

LIMEHOUSE FESTIVAL

This year's Limehouse Festival on 5-6 October will again be organised jointly by London IWA, BW, LDDC, the Limehouse Co-operative and the Cruising Association, and we are pleased that our partners have agreed to label it as an IWA Golden Jubilee event. More details later in the year.

IWALK

For Jubilee Year, IWA is reviving *IWalk*, a weekend of simultaneous sponsored walks all over the country. The chosen date is the first weekend in October, the same as the Limehouse Festival. We are currently discussing whether to link the two events or whether to defer the London bit of *IWalk* to a different weekend. Watch this space.

SOUTH LONDON GOES UP THE CREEK

South London Branch is hoping to organise a number of one-day events through the year in which we take small boats up as many as possible of the creeks of the tidal Thames. Dates and venues are yet to be sorted out, but the contact will be Mike Stevens.

PLANT A TREE FOR JUBILEE

You can sponsor a tree in the new Jubilee Wood on the Grand Union. Trees will be 12ft mature specimens and prices will start from £30 (oak trees £50). For every tree the IWA sponsors, the local Council will match it with another. Details from Jennifer Thomas (01992) 466 180.

FIREWORKS FOR THE FINISH

On 2 November there will be a Golden Jubilee Bonfire and Fireworks Party organised jointly by Middlesex Branch and Hillingdon Canal Club at the latter's clubhouse. More details nearer the time.

From the Region Chairman

As we approach 1996, the IWA's Golden Jubilee Year, it is time to reflect on the future, and to some extent contemplate our navels.

The new London Region is shaping well.

We can remember with pride that the first meeting of the Association was held in London and thus look at that first meeting and be pleased of what we have built in what is now the London Region.

It all started, in the growth of the Association, with the London and Home Counties Branch, then came the setting-up of the Region structure in which London had its own Branch within the South East Region. Now we have our own Region with three Branches and six social meetings for our members every month as well as our own embryo Morris side!

Ian Ferguson, your Deputy Region Chairman, and I have tried to get to as many of the social meetings as possible and most meetings have had one of us present.

As far as most of the meetings are concerned, there is an encouraging number of our members attending—and why not? The meetings offer a varied menu of topics to interest the Waterways enthusiast and in addition offer the member the change to meet other members for a drink and a chat.

The Jubilee Year offers the member an exciting list of meetings and events to attend (see pages 4 and 5), and if you are not a 'meetings person' I would ask you to give it a try. Your Committee members work hard to put these events on for your benefit, so do give them your support.

The main thrust of Association activity is to support waterway restoration and with that in mind we need your support in this area also.

The Association needs funds—yes I know this is a constant cry—but the only way we can continue the level of financial contribution to the waterways is to start at base—**WE NEED TO CONTINUE THE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.**

The Jubilee Year gives us the boost we need to go out and sell the Association so that we have a larger membership base which in turn gives us the ability to raise more for waterways restoration.

We will be running another IWALK in October and this, in conjunction with other fund-raising events should produce a worthwhile sum for a number of projects, the most important of which is an excavator for WRG that will cost between £25,000 and £27,000.

You can help in three ways:

1. By recruiting new members for the Association.
2. By supporting the events we run and bringing friends with you.
3. By participating in IWALK'96 and getting a good sponsorship backing.

THEY ARE YOUR WATERWAYS AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RETAIN THEM—THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER!

Mike Stimpson

Review

4 maps of the Grand Union Canal from Birmingham to the Thames

Map 1: Birmingham to Fenny Stratford

Map 2: Braunston to King's Langley

Map 3: Fenny Stratford to the Thames

Map 4: Leicester Line, Soar Navigation and Erewash Canal

£3.75 each—Published by GEOprojects (UK) Ltd., Reading, Berks

GEOprojects are cartographic publishers who have only in recent years developed a range of inland waterway maps. Recently they have gone onto the canal system, and previous titles include the Kennet and Avon and the Oxford.

The maps are double-sided and the paper quality is not brilliant, but those are the only adverse comments that I could make.

These maps incorporate many features but still manage to stay relatively uncluttered. They had a clear 'at-a-glance' guide to marinas and boatyards with their facilities and telephone numbers. The locks are marked and numbered. There are mile markers along the length of the canal so that distances can be accurately calculated. It also shows whether an abandoned canal is still in water, an essential item for WRGies! The map also shows canal features of interest so that you can search them out and investigate further.

For those who do not have a boat—probably a majority of you—the line of the towpath is clearly marked, as is the railway. Maybe you might feel the urge to try this boating lark, and again the map can help by providing boat trip and boat hire centres.

If you have the urge to go off and explore, this is helped by some of the main towns having clear street plans. The excellent choice of colours helps distinguish between the country areas and the more built-up ones.

Around the map there is information on points of interest, together with enticing photos (even one of Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice). One feature I have not seen before is the cross-section of the canal showing the height in good old fashioned feet and miles, which makes you realise just how high you are going and how quickly.

Overall the maps are an excellent cruising companion, being usable by cruisers and walkers alike. However if you are likely to use it on a regular basis I would either recommend having it laminated or covering it on the good old 'Blue Peter' sticky-back plastic.

I have it from a reliable source that in preparation by the company are maps for the Llangollen and Shropshire Union Canals. Already available is a similar guide to the Thames, including the walkable path.

Adrian Steinkamp



The Limehouse Festival, 8-9 July 1995—not quite the view you get from a boat.

Photo: John Sheridan

On the Metreau

News and Gossip of London's Waterways

NEW NATIONAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Following each National AGM, IWA Council appoints the National Officers and Committee Chairmen for the year. The only major change in this year's appointments was in the post of Deputy Chairman, from which Neil Edwards had resigned when he joined IWA's payroll as Office Manager at Head Office. His successor is Alan Jervis, who brings a wealth of experience to the role, including 11 years' service on IWA Council. Alan was a prime mover in the regeneration of WRG following Graham Palmer's retirement and was its Chairman for 15 years until he stood down in March this year in favour of Mike Palmer. Audrey Smith and Ray Carter were re-appointed as Chairman and Treasurer respectively, and the they, with Alan, serve on the Management Committee along with David Allison-Beer, Jonathan Smith and Mike West.

The list of Committee Chairmen shows little change. They are:

Navigation, Technical and Amenity	John Baylis
Campaign	Mike Stimpson
	and Jonathan Smith (joint)
Environment	Nick Smith
Restoration	<i>To be appointed in December</i>
Inland Shipping Group	Reg Beagley
IWA International	Ron Oakley
IWA (Sales) Ltd	Mike West
National Waterways Festivals Ltd	Trevor Ede
Waterway Recovery Group Ltd	Mike Palmer

LOWER LEE PROJECT

Lots of things seem to have happened around East London's waterways since I last did an update. The post of Newham Council's Rivers Officer was transferred in July to join the two existing staff members of the Lower Lea Project. In addition to all I undertook with Newham Council there are some new aspects to my post.

The Boundary Campaign aims to approach riparian businesses and encourage them to keep materials within their perimeter and to improve the view they present when viewed from the river or towpath. This may be through new fencing or planting a natural screen etc. Thankfully the work has full support from the BRA, BW, London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets Newham and Stratford City Challenge.

The Lower Lea Project has taken over from BTCV the running of the River Maintenance team. On Thursdays and Fridays we can be found with motorised mud-hopper and wilder

anywhere around our 'patch', which is Limehouse Basin and Cut, the Lee to Old Ford Lock and the Bow Back Rivers. We do need more helpers, so if you fancy a day out cruising and rubbish-collecting as you go, give me a ring. Training will be given for operating the craft. The pay is, as always, appalling but tea supplies are plentiful, you often get thanked, and it's fun!

LLP will be carrying out access and towpath improvements to City Mill River towpath. (*Hooray! Ed.*) As part of this work we are trying to persuade Railtrack to release some of their land so the towpath can be made wider.

The trip boat *Pride of Lee* will be operating from Three Mills and Limehouse from Easter 1996. It has been gifted to LLP by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for a period of five years. It will be used as a floating classroom for schools and carry out the usual range of trips including private charter.

The Environmental Education Centre is in the Miller's House at Three Mills. Visits from various educational and environmental interest groups have been taking place since the beginning of the year. Anyone wanting further information should contact Pam Travers at the Lower Lea Project, telephone number below.

Good news for boaters is that British Waterways intend to carry out spot dredging of the main line between Old Ford and Limehouse before March 1996.

The Lower Lea Project can be contacted at:

The Customs House
Three Mills Lane
Bromley-by-Bow, ED3 3DU
Tel: 0181 983 1121

Marion Bidmead

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH . . .

. . . is temporarily without a Chairman since October when Eric Garland felt he had to resign for personal reasons. He will be sorely missed. Eric has made great contributions to London IWA, mainly during his long terms of office as Branch Chairman of the former London Branch and as Planning Officer of the Planning and Navigation Committee. For the time being, our Deputy Chairman, Libby Bradshaw, has agreed to function as Acting Chairman pending the election of a successor. Any volunteers?

HIRE BOAT BROCHURES

I wonder how many people thinking of a waterway holiday for the first time really shop around for the hire company that suits them best. I suspect many of them book with the first company they come across, or simply get either Hoseasons' or Blake's catalogues. If you want to browse through a range of brochures before deciding, you can do so at the London Canal Museum, who will have a wide selection of brochures available during January and February.

The Museum is at:

12-13 New Wharf Road
King's Cross N1 9RT
Telephone: 0171 713 0836

It is open from 10am to 4.30pm from Tuesday to Sunday each week. Admission is £2.50 (concessions £1.25).

NEW VENUES SUCCESSFUL

We have been very pleased with the three new venues for social meetings that we publicised in our last issue. The Central London socials certainly benefit from taking place where there are refreshments on tap. We would like to boost the numbers coming to them; why not join us?

The change of venue from central Croydon to South Norwood has already boosted those attendances. At our November meeting we had an audience of 25; more than double our average for last year. Again it's a pleasant pub venue.

I have not yet made it across London to our new Edmonton venue, but have heard glowing reports from those who have. I must make it there soon.

HALF CUT MORRIS

This group has been formed to provide a mixed Side capable of providing Morris Dances in the Cotswold tradition at waterways events, with the object of raising money for waterway restoration. At present they plan to meet for social events and practise for their first performances next Summer. Practice nights will be on alternate Thursdays at Hillingdon Canal Club (address on page 15). They will be affiliated to the Morris Federation and the IWA. They have already recruited a fair number of intending dancers (although more would be welcome) and are keen to recruit some musicians. Their officers are:

Squire: Mike Stimpson
Bagman: Denise Cameron
Foreman: Sue Stimpson

Fool: Bill Bannon (*No comment! Ed.*)

If you are interested, please contact Mike Stimpson (address on page 2).

PAINT YOUR OWN!

North and East London Branch ran a one-day course on traditional canal decorative painting in October at the London Canal Museum (see our cover photo). It was so successful that they plan to follow it up in February. At the first course, instructor Tim Whitelock concentrated on painting roses. In February he will deal with castles. Perhaps your Editor ought to go, my castles owe a lot more to Disney than to Nurser or Tooley! The course will be on Saturday 10 February, again at the Canal Museum and will cost £14. Details can be obtained from Debbie Bevan on (0181) 367 6227.

THAMES BARRIER CLOSURES

The planned monthly test closures for the period covered by this issue are as follows:

Wednesday 10 January, 0905 to 1135 GMT
Thursday 8 February 0850 to 1120 GMT
Monday 11 March 1000 to 1230 GMT
Thursday 4 April 0800 to 1030 BST

1996 FOR 1996

The Josher steamer *President* will arrive at Canalway Cavalcade carrying a special cargo of Jubilee Souvenir Glasses from Nazeing on the River Lee. These have been made in a special limited edition of 1,996. These will be on sale at various events on *President's* route to Birmingham, starting with Canalway Cavalcade. You read it first here: now buy them first at Cavalcade.

COMMUNITY BOAT NEWS

Excalibur readers with good memories may recall a mention in our Winter 1994 edition of Tideway Adventurers, a Thames-based youth group who at the time were wanting to raise money for a narrowboat to extend their activities on the canals beyond what they had previously done in hired boats. We had various contacts with them: they lent us the use of their boat-house in Putney as a base for a publicity stand at the University Boat Race one year, and provided some volunteer programme sellers at Canalway Cavalcade in 1994.

So it was a great pleasure to meet them in October on the Grand Union in a boat carrying their own livery. Their leader, Mike Simmons, told me that they are leasing *Michael*, one of London Narrowboat Project's three boats, with an option to buy it at some future date. They hope to bring the boat to Canalway Cavalcade in May.

GET WELL SOON

Best wishes to Middlesex Branch's Publicity Officer, Rosie Limming who has a broken leg after a fall.

NOTICE OF BRANCH AND REGION AGMs

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meetings of the London Region, Middlesex Branch, South London Branch and N. and E. London Branch will be on the dates and places shown below:

NORTH and EAST LONDON BRANCH

Tuesday 5 March 1996 at 8 pm at *The George*, Liverpool Road, Islington

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

Tuesday 12 March 1996 at 8 pm at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH

Friday 29 March 1996 at 8 pm at *The Royal Tavern*, Sidcup Road, Mottingham

LONDON REGION

Thursday 18 April 1995 at 7.30 pm at *The Barley Mow*, Horseferry Road, Westminster

ELECTIONS

Nominations for Committees should be in writing, signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee, and must be received by the appropriate Secretary (as listed on page 2) not less than 14 days before the AGM concerned.

AGENDA FOR EACH MEETING

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

IWA LONDON REGION 200 CLUB

London IWA's first-rate record of making donations to waterway causes is possible in part because some of our internal running expenses are raised by our 200 Club. Specifically, the 200 Club and the Annual Draw between them aim to finance the Region Central London Socials and that part of *Excalibur's* cost not covered by money from national IWA.

Club members pay £12 per year, and multiple memberships are welcome: in fact quite a high proportion of the prizes tend to go to members with more than one membership. The overall prize money is half the total subscriptions and is divided between 6 draws per year. Each time, the prize money is split four ways and amounts vary from month to month according to the number of paid-up members at the time.

The 200 Club has recently changed its Officers, who are now as follows:

Chairman—Mike Stevens

Secretary—Vernon Draper

Treasurer—Alan Russell

(All telephone numbers are on page 2).

There was some delay in these officers taking over from their predecessors, so we recently had a catching-up operation and made four draws in one evening. The winners were:

FEBRUARY

1st	Mike Stevens	£45
2nd	K J Watts	£21
3rd	J S Rose	£12
4th	Eric Dilley	£12

MAY

1st	A R Nuttall	£58
2nd	Miss J R Smith	£28
3rd	Joe Busby	£12
4th	P G Rutter	£12

AUGUST

1st	David Allison-Beer	£57
2nd	M J Dyer	£27
3rd	Mary Llewellyn	£12
4th	Helen Hayes	£12

OCTOBER

1st	David Allison-Beer	£40
2nd	J B Kirkbridge	£15
3rd	Philippa Grey	£12
4th	John Greenfield	£12

Membership is currently on the low side, so there is plenty of room for more. To join, just fill in the form on the facing page (photocopy it if you do not want to cut up your copy of *Excalibur*). To save bother and postage costs each year, complete the Banker's Order for an annual payment of £12.

Inland Waterways Association London Region

200 Club

To the officers,

I
wish to become a member of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 club. I have
completed the standing order/enclose a cheque as payment for membership(s).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Telephone (day)..... Telephone (eve).....

I agree to be bound by the rules of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 Club.

Signed..... Date.....

Cheques should be made payable to :- IWA London Region 200 Club.

Standing Order Form

To the manager

..... Bank/Building Society

Branch..... My Account Number.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Please pay to Barclays Bank plc, Islington and Camden Business Centre, 38 Islington Green,
London, N1 8EH for the credit of the Inland Waterways Association London Region Club 200
account, account number 50505412. Sort Code 20-44-86.

The sum of £..... on the first day of *..... and on the same date each year
thereafter until further notice.

Signed..... Date.....

*insert the month following the current month

Please post the completed form to Mr V Draper, 121 St Andrews Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 3HJ.

If you require more than one form, or do not wish to remove this page
from your copy of Excaliburplease photocopy this form.

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**Arthur Bennett
Marina Manager
(Mooring Enquiry IWA1)
Willowtree Marina
West Quay Drive
Yeading Middx UB4 9TB
Tel: 0181 841 6585**

Waterways Events in and around London

See page 15 for details of Venues and Contacts for further information

JANUARY 1996

- Monday 1st IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK.
Details from Ken Allen 01494 483 566
- Sunday 7th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL:** Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station.
- Tuesday 9th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** David Hilling (IWA Inland Shipping Group): *Freight transport by water in Britain.*
- Wednesday 10th 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (S. NORWOOD).**
Walter Rose: *The two Brunels*
- Thursday 11th 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH: Bob Winter: *Flanders 1995.*
- Weekend 13th/14th LONDON WRG DIG at the London Canal Museum (subject to confirmation).
- Tuesday 16th 8pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON).**
Brian Daubeney: *A new look at Brindley*
- Tuesday 16th 7.45 for 8pm IWA HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH. Members' slides evening.
- Thursday 18th 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL.**
Hugh McKnight: *The River Douro and the Panama Canal*
- Thursday 18th 7.30pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. Roger Leishman: Across the Pennines by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal
- Sunday 21st 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: MILE END TO LIMEHOUSE.**
Meet at Mile End tube station.
- Friday 26th 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).**
Richard Thomas: *A day in the life of a London refuse tug.*
- Tuesday 30th 7.30 for 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD AND KENT AND E.SUSSEX BRANCHES:
INTER-BRANCH QUIZ at Gravesend Sailing Club.

FEBRUARY

- Weekend 3rd/4th LONDON WRG DIG (with Essex WRG) on the Thames and Severn Canal.
- Sunday 4th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE NEW RIVER: MANOR HOUSE TO Highbury.**
Meet at Manor House tube station.
- Tuesday 6th 8pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).**
Doug Beard: *The restoration of Springfield Basin.*
- Thursday 8th 7.30 for 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH.
Raymond Palmer: *A shipping miscellany*
- Saturday 10th **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH.** CANAL ART COURSE on the theme 'Castles', at the London Canal Museum. Admission £14.
Details from Debbie Bevan 0181 367 6227.
- Tuesday 13th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.**
Ken Moore: *The deviation of the Grand Junction Canal*
- Wednesday 14th 8pm **SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (S. NORWOOD).**
May Johnson (The Croydon Society): *The Croydon Canal*

- Thursday 15th 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL.** Martin Ludgate: *Fulbourne, a restored boat on restored waterways.*
- Thursday 15th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH.** Branch and S.E. Region A.G.M.s followed by an Open Forum.
- Thursday 15th 7.30pm **IWA CHILTERN BRANCH.**
E Kirk: *The work of a Thames Navigation Inspector*
- Sunday 18th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE NEW RIVER: HIGHBURY TO ANGEL. Meet at Highbury and Islington tube station.
- Tuesday 20th 8pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON).**
Time Whitelock: *Canal Art*
- Tuesday 20th 7.45 for 8pm **IWA HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH:** Archive films
- Friday 23rd 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).**
Mike Stevens: *The Kennet and Avon Canal*

MARCH

- Weekend 2nd/3rd
Sunday 3rd 2.30pm **LONDON WRG DIG** on the Droitwich Canal.
LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: PADDINGTON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station.
- Tuesday 5th 8pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).**
BRANCH A.G.M.
- Tuesday 12th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH. BRANCH A.G.M.** followed by waterways archive films.
- Wednesday 13th 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (S. NORWOOD).**
Speaker to be announced
- Sunday 17th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: CAMDEN TO ISLINGTON. Meet at Camden Town tube station.
- Tuesday 19th 8pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON).**
Len Faram: *Life of a tugman*
- Tuesday 19th 7.45 for 8pm **IWA HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH.** Branch A.G.M. plus *Three men and some boats*
- Thursday 21st 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION.**
David Green: *The 'Narrows Flotilla' to Belgium*
- Thursday 21st 7.30pm **IWA CHILTERN BRANCH.** Branch A.G.M. plus slide quiz.
- Weekend 23rd/24th **LONDON WRG DIG** on the Thames.
- Friday 29th 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).**
BRANCH A.G.M. followed by a balloon debate.

APRIL

- Tuesday 2nd 8pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).**
Speaker to be announced.
- Sunday 7th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: ISLINGTON TO MILE END. Meet at Angel tube station.
- Tuesday 9th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** James Griffin (Wyvern Sipping Company): *Running a hire fleet and working with British Waterways.*
- Wednesday 10th 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (S. NORWOOD).**
Speaker to be announced.

Thursday 11th 7.30 for 8pm	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH. David Rouse: <i>The Thames and Medway Canal</i>
Weekend 13th/14th	LONDON WRG DIG on the North Wilts Canal.
Tuesday 16th 8pm	IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON). Speaker to be announced.
Tuesday 16th 7.45 for 8pm	IWA HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH. Martin Watts: <i>Windmill and watermill restoration</i>
Thursday 18th 7 for 7.30pm	IWA LONDON REGION. REGION A.G.M.
Thursday 18th 7.30pm	IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. Terry Putnam: <i>The last years of commercial carrying on the Grand Union Canal, 1967-70</i>
Sunday 21st 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: MILE END TO LIMEHOUSE. Meet at Camden Town tube station.
Friday 26th	IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM). Speaker to be announced.
Saturday 27th 10am	IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH. TREASURE HUNT. See details on page 4.

VENUE DETAILS and CONTACT PEOPLE

MEETING	VENUE	CONTACT
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	<i>The Barley Mow</i> Horseferry Road, SW1 (Nearest tube Victoria or St James' Park)	Tim Lewis 0181-367 6227
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	Hillingdon Canal Club Uxbridge Wharf Rear of 32 Waterloo Road, Uxbridge	Alison Struckett 0181-691 7215 or 0973 538690
IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON)	<i>The George</i> , Liverpool Road, N1 (corner of Tolpuddle Street, nearest tube Angel)	Alan Russell 0181-529 0689
(EDMONTON)	Millfield Arts Centre Silver Street, Edmonton N18 (Close to Silver Street BR station).	Alan Russell 0181-529 0689
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (NORWOOD)	<i>The Albion</i> , corner of High St and South Norwood Hill, SE25 (Close to Norwood Junction BR)	Mike Stevens 0181-674 9387
(MOTTINGHAM)	<i>The Royal Tavern</i> , Mottingham (corner of Court Road and Sidcup Road, close to Mottingham BR).	Dorothy Robbie 0181-857 6367
LONDON IWA/LONDON WALKS TOWPATH WALKS	As listed. Each about 2 hours £4 (concessions £3)	Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti 0181-882 1337
IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	AEU House, Primrose Hill Chelmsford	Mrs Molly Beard 01702-554 492
IWA CHILTERN BRANCH	Market Hall, Old Amersham, Bucks	Roger Leishman 01442-874 536
IWA HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH	Hatfield Cricket Club Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City	Greta Wright 01727 860 137
IWA KENT and EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	<i>The Fountain Inn</i> , Tonbridge Road Barming, Maidstone	Angela Madle 01634-722661
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP	Various venues. Meeting point usually Waterloo Station 7pm Friday to travel to site.	Tim Lewis 0181-367 6227

Late News

TOWPATH CYCLING

BW announced in December that their existing system of permits for cycling on towpaths would continue for another year. Its present form was introduced as an experiment this time last year and is currently being reviewed. We await the announcement of their plans for consulting users, promised for "the New Year".

Before this, BW had already announced that they are setting up a study group (including Department of Transport officials) to see if the canal towpath in London can effectively be improved to encourage more use by cyclists. They say "The study group will look at the possibility of setting up a system where walkers would have the canal edge and cyclists the inner edge with clear delineation between cyclists and pedestrians. This could involve towpath widening in some areas."

Some of us who regularly walk the towpaths find this a bit worrying. Where the towpath is wide and firm, as for much of the Regent's Canal, too many cyclists take the opportunity to travel at an unsafe speed. Together with their silent approach, this can represent a real danger to pedestrians. It is hard to see how the sort of segregation suggested by BW could be achieved without unsightly physical barriers. Narrow bridgeholes present particular difficulties. But clearly if BW wants to encourage cyclists, some form of separation between them and pedestrians is needed.

We need to find some way of cyclists and pedestrians co-existing. At a couple of our social meetings last year we had discussions with representatives of the London Cycling Campaign, who fully accepted this aim of co-existence, and were talking of a "considerate cycling campaign".

Then there is the vexed question of whether lockwheelers should be exempt from restrictions imposed on other cyclists.

London IWA is seeking representation on the BW/DTp working party. *Excalibur* readers' views would be particularly welcome on the subject.

200 CLUB WINNERS

Since the article on page 10 was written, there has been another 200 Club Draw, which took place at South London Branch's December social meeting in South Norwood. The winners were

Mrs P V Faulkner	£45
Mr K J Watts	£20

PADDINGTON BASIN

Some years ago, in the palmy '80s, there was a much-publicised plan to develop Paddington Basin. Despite the fact that some of the water-space would be lost, IWA London Branch (as it then was) welcomed the plan on balance, as it would have opened this

forgotten piece of waterway up to the public. But then came the economic recession and everything was put on ice. Recent news, however, indicates that the plan is still likely to go ahead at some future date. Your Editor has heard from a BW source that the developers have recently signed a long lease on the site.

METRIC MUDDLE

IWA Council News reports:

The Department of Trade & Industry publication 'The use of metric units for commercial purposes' was closely followed by a letter from the Department of the Environment instructing British Waterways to change its speed limits and enforcing bye-laws into kilometres per hour. Whilst the whole country will have to change to grammes and litres only inland waterways, out of all forms of transport, are being metricated; the mile will remain on roads and railways, the foot in aviation and the nautical mile and the knot at sea. It is unreasonable that only the inland navigation authorities and boaters should be required to use two standards, particularly when the mile is the distance measure on canals and, as on railways, mileposts or milestones are present on most canal towing paths.

At least boats' non-existent speedometers could be said to give their non-readings in whatever units you fancy. How about leagues per fortnight?

IWA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

now has a new Chairman, Nick Smith, in succession to Ulick Palmer who has had to cut down on his IWA commitments for reasons to do with his work. Six new members have also been recruited to the Committee, which, Ulick remarks, backs up the showing in the recent survey that environmental issues rate highly with our members.

ARMOURED BOATS ?

You may have heard that the Royal Armouries Museum is re-locating from the Tower of London (I believe to Leeds, but I may have that wrong). It has been arranged that a token bit of the collection will be carried from Tower Pier by waterway to the new site. This is due to happen in the very near future. The last I heard was that the plans were having to be revised because of a stoppage of the Grand Union in Hayes, so two separate vessels will have to be involved in the London part of the journey, with a transshipment around the stoppage. Hopefully by the time you read this, all will have been sorted out.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our revised schedule meant we missed the chance to wish our readers a happy Christmas, but it's never really too late to say Happy New Year! And as it's our Jubilee Year, we can look forward to it being a particularly exciting one.