

# Newsletter

Issue 337

December 1999

## Open and closed

Following the Environment Agency's decision to abandon the close fishing season, all BW canals will remain open for fishing throughout the year.

## Never busier

BW has embarked on its busiest period ever. Over 100 planned stoppages started in November, adding to a workload which already includes restoration of the Forth & Clyde, Union, Huddersfield Narrow, Chesterfield and Kennet & Avon canals.

The scale of engineering work far surpasses the BTC's modernisation of the 1950's. In partnership with other bodies BW are restoring canals faster than they were being built at the height of canal mania 200 years ago.

Throughout the network, around 220 engineering contracts are in progress. They have boosted BW spending to an average of over £4m each week.

And there is more. Work on two schemes involving the Waterways Trust should start next year. The restoration of the Rochdale Canal will add £25m to BW turnover while the Anderton Boat Lift project will cost £7m.

*BW Monthly - Nov 1999*

## Annual Inter - Society Quiz

Eleven members of Southampton Canal Society travelled to the Byfleet Boat Club for the Inter-Society Quiz on Monday 22nd November; our team of four and seven supporters. A large room full of people made it obvious that the other three teams taking part were also well supported.

Members of our team were Paul Herbert, Eric Lewis, Tony Coles and Peter Oates. The strong competition they were up against came from Surrey & Hants Canal Society, IWA Solent & Arun Branch and IWA Guildford & Reading Branch.

The Competition was divided into two parts, first an oral quiz followed by identification of waterways pictures which were mounted on four large panels and kept covered until after a tea break. The audience were also issued with answer sheets and those who wanted to could take part for a separate prize.

The whole competition was great fun and our quizmaster, Andy Simmonds,

dealt with one or two disputes in good humoured fashion.

Results - well, three cheers for our own team for bringing the valuable trophy back to Southampton by scoring 178 points. They were closely followed by last year's winners IWA Guildford &

Reading Branch with 176 points. Third were IWA Solent & Arun Branch with 159 and fourth Surrey & Hants CS, 117 points.

A bottle of wine from a local vineyard was the prize won by Brian Percy, Chairman of IWA SE Region, best in the audience. Brian

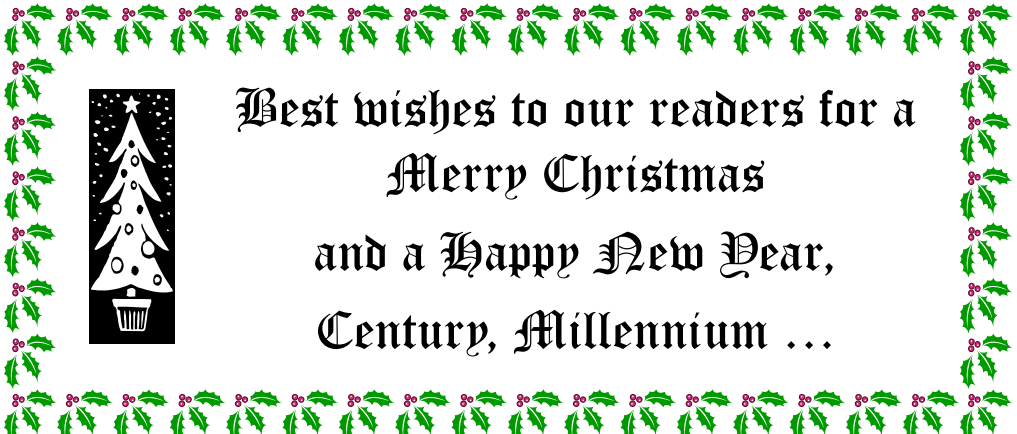
generously put the wine up for auction for IWA funds.


After the quiz, those present enjoyed a generous buffet before heading off in various directions.

Our thanks to our hosts, the Guildford & Reading Branch of IWA for a super evening and we look forward to hosting the next Inter-Society Quiz.

*Brian Evans*







Best wishes to our readers for a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year,  
Century, Millennium ...

## November Meeting

The Chesterfield Canal by Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock was presently mostly by Peter; he did most of the talking but many of the slides were taken by Laura. They must have been for Peter was often in the picture. This was the first presentation that SCS has had on the Chesterfield and what a treat it was.

Built from the Trent to Chesterfield, principally to serve local mines and related industries, this waterway was similar to many in Britain, some success, followed by decline, a tunnel collapse and many years of dereliction.

In the 1960's the campaign for restoration was taken up by the Retford and Worksop Boat Club and since then much progress has been made by volunteer groups and British Waterways, owners of the canal

from the Trent to the west end of Norwood Tunnel.

The collapsed tunnel presents a major obstacle to further progress west at the moment but negotiations are in progress, also with the various owners along the course towards Chesterfield.

The slide show began with a look at the entrance to the navigable part of the River Idle. The navigable part of the Canal was mainly photographed as Peter and Laura cruised with a hire boat, and the rest of its route by visits on foot. Along the way there were glimpses of adjoining towns and villages. Peter had done a lot of research into the history and present day state of the waterway and his precise delivery was both educating and amusing.

*Brian Evans*

## Bones

It has been said that the membership of any organisation is made up of four sets of bones.

There are the **wishbones** who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work.

Along with them are the **jawbones** who do all the talking about the work and very little else.

Another group is the **knucklebones** who knock everything that anyone else tries to do.

But most valuable are the **backbones** who get under the load and actually do the work.

To which do you belong?

*With thanks to an unknown author and IWPS' One Seven Four Newsletter.*

## Co-op Bank switches on to canal electricity

The Co-operative Bank has plugged-in to water power at its city centre headquarters. The hi-tech offices, which use enough electricity to run 600 homes, will now be powered by water from the Manchester Ship Canal. It is believed to be the first building powered from a canal, and makes the Co-op the biggest purchaser of green energy in the UK.

"The principle reason for this is that we were concerned about the issue of global warming and we wanted to do our bit to reduce the contribution of greenhouse gases," said bank spokesman Paul Monaghan.

"It's not much more expensive and in the long term, costs will go down because of greater energy efficiency. We are looking to use renewable energy wherever possible and we are delighted to be able to power our head office with energy derived from one of the cleanest sources possible, hydropower."

Almost 40% of the bank's energy, at buildings and branches across the country, now comes from

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Boat Trips 1999/2000

### Father Christmas Boat Trips

Every day from 27 November to 24 December

12 places are available on Egremont which leaves Chichester Canal Basin at

0910, 1020, 1130, 1240, 1350, 1500

Ticket Price: £5.00 Adult or Child

Come and see Father Christmas in his grotto. Presents for the children, seasonal refreshments for everyone.

Advanced bookings absolutely essential. Please call Sue Fowler on 01243 771724 to arrange your booking

### Millennium Boat Trips

Special trips on 30/31 December 1999 and 1/2 January 2000. Two trips a day at about 10.30 am and 1.00 pm (it has to be during daylight hours). The trip duration is about 2 hours and represents a different way to celebrate the turn of the century. Bring your own buffet-style food or at extra cost a buffet can be arranged. Each booking is for the complete boat at a cost of £100, exclusive of food. Two bottles of champagne is being donated to each booking.

Contact Jenny Pine on 01243 670786 to make your reservation. Full refund should severe weather prevent operation.

## Eileen Massy - An Obituary

It was a shock to learn recently that an enthusiastic member of the Canal Society is no longer with us.

Although recently her deteriorating health had prevented her from attending our meetings, she and her husband John have been involved with the Society since the days when we held regular working parties on the Basingstoke Canal. I can vividly remember an occasion in 1977 when the Massy family, including children and the dog, were involved in preparations for the Deepcut Big Dig; Eileen busy with the concrete mixer.

She was always cheerful even after her operation for a brain tumour which I was surprised to find out was as long as eighteen years ago. She maintained an interest in the waterways and enjoyed coming to Society meetings.

I shall miss her smile and count myself fortunate to have known her. I am sure all in the Society will join me in giving heartfelt condolences to John and the families of their four children.

*Peter Oates*

## Basingstoke Canal

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced a grant of £295,000 for the Basingstoke Canal. The money will help fund a pump-house and piping system which will pump water back up the locks around Woking. This will allow year round navigation of the Canal from the River Wey to beyond Woking.

The successful Heritage Lottery Fund application was put together by the Basingstoke Canal Authority and Surrey County Council, who own the Surrey section of the Canal. Volunteer support for the bid is being co-ordinated by Surrey & Hants Canal Society.

Each time a lock is used, some 50,000 gallons of water pass down the system. The Canal has had water supply problems ever since it was built over 200 years ago. However, increased demand for water from housing and industrial uses has reduced the flow of some of the original supplies of water from the springs and streams which formerly fed the Canal at its Hampshire end. Consequently, the main lock flights have had to remain closed to preserve water levels for much of each summer and autumn since the canal was re-opened in 1991.

*IWA Head Office Bulletin Nov 99*



## IWA Solent & Arun Branch Cruises

The following cruises in the branch area are currently being organised. More details will be given nearer the time.

**May:** River Arun moorings cruise, Littlehampton to Pulborough, and Upper Arun Campaign Cruise, Pulborough to Pallingham.

**July:** River Itchen tidal and freshwaters cruise, Woolston to Mansbridge.

**September:** Beaulieu River cruise and picnic, Buckler's Hard to Beaulieu.

**Also in May:** Wey and Arun Small Boat cruise at Loxwood.

**June 25:** Botley Millennium Festival, boat gathering, Botley Quay, River Hamble.

## Bugsworth Basin

Following a small breach in the entrance canal to Bugsworth Basin the canal has had to be closed to navigation, whilst stop planks are inserted so that the breach can be repaired. The breach does not appear to be linked in any way to any defective restoration work, but rather a long standing hidden weakness has been exposed by substantial use of the basin since re-opening last Easter. Since the Basin had become derelict by time of the widespread introduction of motorised boats, the entrance canal has been subjected to stresses not previously experienced.

It will not be possible to predict when the canal will be reopened, until the full extent of the problem and costs to remedy it have been established.

*IWA Head Office Bulletin Nov 99*

## The Waterways Trust

Although BW's consultation on a potential membership scheme and an allied trust has yet to be completed, the Waterways Trust, which currently runs the three main waterway museums, appears to be adopting the role set out in BW's consultation paper for the proposed charitable trust. At the time of BW's Annual Meeting, it had been acknowledged by BW that the Trust was involved in the Anderton Lift restoration project, in helping to find the funding shortfall on the Millennium Link project and also in facilitating the Rochdale Canal restoration funding package.

The Waterways Trust has also recently provided two grants to wildlife interests who have raised concerns in connection with the restoration of the Montgomery Canal. It is understood that the Trust is now open to receiving funding applications from waterway restoration groups throughout the country, whether they be situated in BW waterway areas or otherwise. However, the Trust only has a very limited amount of funds at its disposal at present and these will only be used to provide 10% Landfill Tax balances for projects which have been approved by Entrust. Further information is available from Graham Clark, c/o British Waterways at Watford ☎ 01923 226422

*IWA Head Office Bulletin Nov 99*

## WATERWAYS DIARY 1999/2000

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton.

Hopefully you can find something to interest you. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Date	Organisers	Details of Event	Contact
Thu 02/12/99 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Here, there, but not quite everywhere" with Brian Evans followed by American Supper.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Tue 14/12/99 8.00pm	Surrey & Hants CS	"The West Byfleet Independent Canal Society" with 'Pablo' Haworth. Restoration on the Basingstoke Canal. Westgate Centre, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: 0181 737 4896
Tue 21/12/99 7.45pm	IWA West Country Branch	Details of this meeting not currently to hand.	Bob Dukes: 01202 694830
Thu 06/01/00 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The BCN Marathon Challenge with Chris and Helen Davey.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Tue 11/01/00 8.00pm	Surrey & Hants CS	"More travels around the World" with Robin Higgs. Railway journeys to far off lands Westgate Centre, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: 0181 737 4896
Tue 18/01/00 7.45pm	IWA West Country Branch	Details of this meeting not currently to hand.	Bob Dukes: 01202 694830
Mon 24/01/00 8.00pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Branch	"British Bats and their Conservation" by Ross Baker (Chairman Surrey Bat Group) at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking.	Paul Miles: 01932 401505
Thu 03/02/00 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Jubilee Sailing Trust by Pam Taylor.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Tue 08/02/00 8.00pm	Surrey & Hants CS	"The London Canal Museum" with David Moore (Chairman Friends of London Canal Museum). Westgate Centre, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: 0181 737 4896
Tue 15/02/00 7.45pm	IWA West Country Branch	Details of this meeting not currently to hand.	Bob Dukes: 01202 694830
Mon 21/02/00 8.00pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Branch	"River Wey Matters" with John Gibson (National Trust Navigations Manager) at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking.	Paul Miles: 01932 401505
Thu 02/03/00 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Canals of South West England" by Bob Dukes (IWA West Country Branch).	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Tue 14/03/00 8.00pm	Surrey & Hants CS	"Birmingham and the Black Country" with Ron Cousens. Westgate Centre, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: 0181 737 4896
Mon 20/03/00 8.00pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Branch	"Branch AGM and Surfing the System (at a snail's pace)" a video with Norman Woolley at Byfleet Boat Club, Woking.	Paul Miles: 01932 401505
Tue 21/03/00 7.45pm	IWA West Country Branch	Details of this meeting not currently to hand.	Bob Dukes: 01202 694830
Thu 06/04/00 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Members' Slides.	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Tue 11/04/00 8.00pm	Surrey & Hants CS	"An evening of Audio-Visual films on 'other' canals and things" with Arthur Dungate. Films on Wilts & Berks and Wey & Arun Canals and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Westgate Centre, Woking.	Arthur Dungate: 0181 737 4896
Mon 17/04/00 8.00pm	IWA Guildford & Reading Branch	"Woking's Waterways Heritage" Opening event of Woking Waterways Week. At Byfleet Boat Club, Woking.	Paul Miles: 01932 401505
Thu 04/05/00 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Anderton Boat Lift" by Richard Drake (National Chairman IWA & Chairman of Anderton Boat Lift Trust).	Peter Oates: 01794 517614
Fri - Sun 26-28/05/00	MB&ACT and IWA South Wales Branch	National Trailboat Festival, Monmouthshire Canal, Newport, Gwent.	Phil Hughes: 01495 762823 or Don Thomas: 01633 48340
First Wed of month	IWA Dorchester Group		Graham Pugh: 01305 262305
4th Thursday of month	Wey & Arun CT	Series of interesting but not too arduous walks in Sussex come rain or shine. Lunch at well chosen establishment en route or at end. Donation to WACT appreciated.	Don Gibson: 01903 201375
All year	Wey & Arun CT	Cruises on n/b <i>Zachariah Keppel</i> on the restored canal at Loxwood.	John Lisk: 01493 752403.
All year	Chichester CS	Cruises on n/b <i>Egremont</i> on Chichester Canal.	John Cooper: 01243 671051

## SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

### Meetings:

1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm  
St John's Ambulance Hall, King's Park Road,  
Southampton

### Chairman:

Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens, Romsey,  
Hampshire, SO51 8FN. Tel: 01794 517115

### Secretary:

Vacant

### Treasurer & Membership:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey,  
Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614

### Committee:

Tony Coles, Martin Cripps, Paul Herbert,  
Peter Oates, David Townley-Jones

### Newsletter Editor:

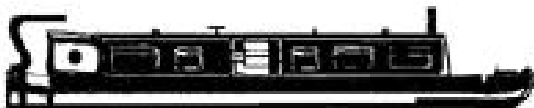
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Tel: 01703 225255

### Society Website:

<http://www.users.waitrose.com/~whitenap/index.htm>



## Co-op Bank

(Continued from page 2)

renewable sources. The Manchester HQ is being supplied with electricity by the Renewable Energy Company, from a turbine in the old pump house at Barton Dock.

Green campaigners hope other companies will follow the bank's lead.

Steve Conner, of Sustainability North West, said, "This is a tangible example of a business that has to make profits; a commercial concern that has to have a healthy bottom line."

Dale Vince, of the Renewable Energy Company, said, "The bank's commitment to renewable energy is substantially above the national average and worthy of praise."

*IWPS' One Seven Four newsletter*

## FORTHCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

### 2nd December 1999

"Here, there, but not quite everywhere" with Brian Evans followed by American Supper.

### 6th January 2000

The BCN Marathon Challenge with Chris and Helen Davey.

### 3rd February 2000

Jubilee Sailing Trust by Pam Taylor.

### 2nd March 2000

Canals of South West England by Bob Dukes.

### 6th April 2000

Members' Slides.

### 4th May 2000

The Anderton Boat Lift by Richard Drake (National Chairman IWA & Chairman of Anderton Boat Lift Trust).

### 1st June 2000

Annual General Meeting (supporting programme to be arranged)

### 6th July 2000

Day-Star Theatre with their new 2000 production

## CANAL SOCIETY SALES STAND

### GEOProjects Maps:

Inland Waterways of Britain .....	£4.75
Basingstoke Canal .....	£3.00
Birmingham Canal Navigations .....	£3.75
The Broads .....	£3.75
Caledonian Canal & the Great Glen .....	£3.75
Coventry & Ashby Canals .....	£3.75
Grand Union Canal (each).....	£3.75
Map 1 Birmingham - Fenny Stratford	
Map 2 Braunston - Kings Langley	
Map 3 Fenny Stratford - Thames	
Map 4 Leicester Line - Soar - Erewash	
Kennet & Avon Canal .....	£3.75
Llangollen and Montgomery Canals .....	£3.75
London - City and Docklands Atlas .....	£3.75
Oxford Canal .....	£3.75
Shropshire Union Canal .....	£3.75
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal with the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.....	£3.75
The Thames Map .....	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction..	£3.75
Trent & Mersey Canal and River Trent - Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock.....	£3.75

**Ball Point Pens:** Embossed ..... 50p

**Burgees:** Navy Blue - screen printed Society logo on each side ..... £8.00

**Decorated Mugs:** ..... £2.25

**Notelets:** with drawings of canal and Romsey scenes ..... £1.00  
(by Brian Evans)

**Shopper Bags:** Cotton with screen-printed Society logo each side. £2.25

**Society Members Badges:** Enamel ..... 75p

**Sweat Shirts:** 30th Anniversary in Light Grey ..... £16.00  
with multi-coloured embroidered Society logo on breast

**Sweat Shirts:** Standard in Navy or Royal Blue ..... £15.00  
with Society logo embroidered on breast

**Tea Towels:** Various colourful designs ..... £2.50 & £3.25

**Tee Shirts:** Screen printed with Society logo across chest ..... £6.50  
in Navy Blue - medium, large & extra large; in Red - medium

Visit the Sales Stand at Society meetings and place your orders with Paul Herbert or Ray Brooks - or ring Paul on 01703 262365