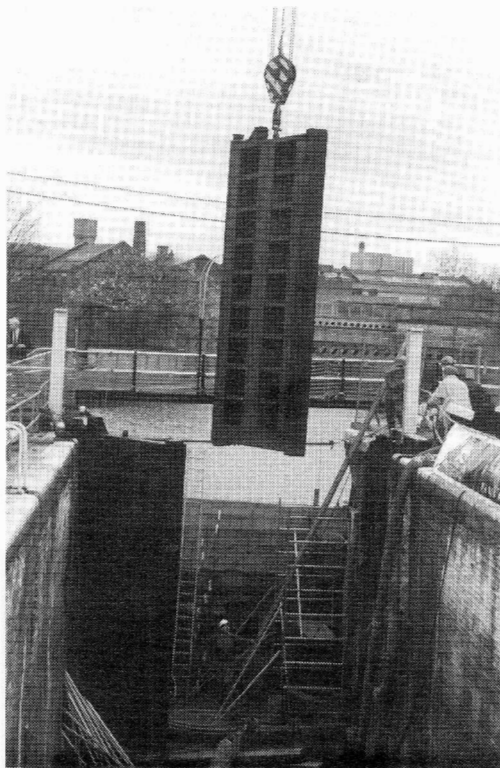


Excalibur

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

NUMBER 15, SUMMER 1994

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



*New gates being fitted to Old Ford lock on the River Lea
during a stoppage earlier in the year*

Photo: British Waterways

WHO'S WHO IN LONDON IWA

* = answerphone

LONDON REGION

PRESIDENT

Illyd Harrington, JP, DL

VICE-PRESIDENT & WALKS ORGANISER

Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti — 081-882 1337

CHAIRMAN

Eric Garland — Dartford (0322) 342296

39 Valence Road, Erith, Kent DA8 3JT

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mike Stimpson — 0923-770425

SECRETARY

Rosie Limming — Uxbridge (0895) 252011*

13 Tachbrook Rd, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 2QS

TREASURER AND

CANALWAY CAVALCADE DIRECTOR

Libby Bradshaw — 081-874 2787*

Ground Floor Flat, 61 West Side

Wandsworth Common, SW18 2ED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Bannon — 0753 650938

(Middlesex Section Chairman)

Richard Bird — 081-857 6367

Ron Bingham — 081-855 3693

(Navigation and Liaison officer and Chairman of Planning and Navigation Committee)

Vernon Draper — 081-668 5522

Ian Ferguson — 081-985 4507

Mike Stevens — 081-674 9387*

(London Branch Chairman)

LONDON BRANCH

VICE-PRESIDENT

AND LECTURERS PANEL ORGANISER

Arthur Farrand Radley, MBE — 071-603 6062

CHAIRMAN

Mike Stevens — 081-674 9387*

333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Libby Bradshaw — 081-874 2787*

VICE-CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Dorothy Robbie — 081-857 6367

SECRETARY

Marcia Davies — 081-881 4688

169 Langham Road, London N15 3LP

TREASURER AND SALES OFFICER

Rosie Limming — Uxbridge (0895) 252011*

13 Tachbrook Rd., Uxbridge, Middx UB8 2QS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eric Garland — Dartford (0322) 342296

Ian Ferguson — Day: 081-965 8188

Evening: 081-985 4507

Tim Lewis — 081-367 6227

(Central London Social Secretary, WRG contact and 200 Club Chairman)

Jim Mason — 081-847 1538 (work)

Adrian Steinkamp

Pager: 081-840 7000: pager no. 0335269

(Waterways for Youth contact and Membership Recruitment Officer)

Marion Waters — 081-530 4767

(Publicity Officer)

OTHER OFFICIALS

NOT ON THE BRANCH COMMITTEE

Lewis Phillips — 081-673 4412*

(London Ring Plaques distribution)

MIDDLESEX SECTION

CHAIRMAN

Bill Bannon — 0753 650938

nb Aquinas, The Boatyard

Mansion Lane, Iver, Bucks SL0 9RG

SECRETARY

Alison Struckett

nb The Albannach, The Boatyard

Mansion Lane, Iver, Bucks SL0 9RG

TREASURER

Siobhan Selden — 081-574 5624

20 Bulls Bridge Road

Southall, Middx UB2 5LU

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Daines — 081-941 1411

Vernon Draper — 081-668 5522

Rosie Limming — Uxbridge (0895) 252011*

Bob McGowan — 081-848 8384

NORTH-EAST LONDON SECTION

CONVENORS

Alan and Kath Russell — 081-529 0689

97 Waverley Avenue, Chingford E4 8HS

EXCALIBUR

EDITOR

Mike Stevens

333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS

Telephone 081-674 9387

Mobile 0850-665102

Fax (agency) 081-671 4080

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Robin Bishop

11 Lichfield Road, Cricklewood

London NW2 2RE

Telephone 081-452 2632 (evenings)

0276-63366, ext. 236 (work)

From the Branch Chairman and Editor

SORRY WE WERE LATE!

Sincere apologies to readers for the lateness of our last issue, which was caused by some problems with the Post Office. I hope this issue will not have the same problem, since we are already running late as I write because of the conjunction of Canalway Cavalcade with a seasonal rush of work in my 'day-job'.

BRANCH RE-ORGANISATION: LATEST NEWS

Our last edition reported that a Branch Working Party was to produce detailed recommendations for this. This was done, under the Chairmanship of Roger Squires, to whom we are most grateful. The recommendations were accepted by the Branch Committee with only minor changes.

We propose three Branches defined by post-code areas (where relevant, those parts of them inside the present London Region boundary):

MIDDLESEX BRANCH with areas HA, KT, NW, TW, UB & W;

NORTH-EAST LONDON BRANCH with areas E, EN, IG, N, RM, WC & EC;

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH with areas BR, CR, DA, SE, SM, SW and TN.

We propose to form the Middlesex Branch on 1 September 1994 and at a future date (target 1 January 1995) to form the N.E. London Branch and to redesignate London Branch as South London Branch, with adjustments to its Committee. Alan and Kathy Russell are the first volunteers for the N.E. Section Committee.

We have tried to ensure that all our present activities can continue, and that each of the new Branches has an initial source of income (as well as a share of the assets of the existing Branch). Central London Socials will continue, run in the name of the Region, either by Region Committee itself or by a Branch on its behalf. Each Branch will decide its own venue(s) for its meetings. We envisage our venues at Uxbridge, Mottingham and Waltham Abbey remaining, but need to find a cheaper venue if the Croydon meetings are to continue. In addition, the N.E. London Section is considering an additional venue in Islington, and we are seeking a venue in S.W. London.

Excalibur (with *Smallsword*), the 200 Club and the New Year Draw will become Region responsibilities, the latter two to fund the Central London meetings and the extra cost of *Excalibur/Smallsword* compared with the money we receive from Head Office.

The London Branch Sales Stand will go to the Middlesex Branch. Either of the other Branches can choose to set up its own sales stand, or if one of the them invites the stand to an event, the host Branch will get a share of the profit in proportion to the manpower provided. The present display stand becomes a Regional resource, bookable by any Branch. Its use mainly with the sales stand is likely to continue.

Our walks in conjunction with 'London Walks' will be run by N.E. London Branch, with IWA's share of the income shared between Branches in proportion to how many walks are led by members of each.

The waterways for which each Branch is proposed to be responsible are:

MIDDLESEX BRANCH: the G.U. Main line within London Region and the Paddington Branch from Bull's Bridge to Ha'penny Bridge (West of Little Venice).

N.E. LONDON BRANCH: the Paddington Branch from Ha'penny Bridge to Paddington Basin, the Regent's and Hertford Union Canals, the Lee Navigation within London Region (including Bow Back Rivers and Bow Creek), Barking Creek and the River Roding and Docklands waterways North of the Thames.

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH: the Thames within London Region (including all navigable creeks except Bow and Barking), the Kensington and Grosvenor Canals and Docklands waterways South of the Thames.

These are recommendations from the Branch Committee, and we are taking advice about the process of having them formally approved. This will include a Special General Meeting of the Branch: details are not decided as I write, but will be on the back page of this issue.

Mike Stevens

FUTURE ISSUES

Publication Date	Copy date
No. 16 Autumn 1994	9 July 1994
No. 17 Winter 1994	8 October 1994
No. 18 Spring 1995	17 December 1994
No. 19 Summer 1995	7 April 1995

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.

© IWA London Branch 1994.

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

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

From the Region Chairman: Mike Stimpson

WORK OF THE REGION COMMITTEE

I pay tribute to the work of the Region Committee, made up of elected members and the Chairmen of the Region Sub-committees and the Branch Chairman. For its first year, Region Committee consisted of: Mike Stimpson (Chairman), Rosie Limming (Secretary), Libby Bradshaw (Treasurer), Mike Stevens (Branch Chairman), Ron Bingham (Planning and Navigation Chairman), Eric Garland (Vice-Chairman), Bill Bannon (Middlesex Section Chairman), Vernon Draper and Ian Ferguson. We thus had a Committee of 9, about the right size.

We hope soon to be a Region of three Branches, and I thank Roger Squires for his excellent Chairmanship of the Working Party on this. Details are on the previous page. Because we have spent the year as a one-Branch Region, there has been some overlap between the two Committees, and there has been a smooth and professional relationship between them.

REGION SUBCOMMITTEES

The first of these is Canalway Cavalcade Committee, headed by Libby Bradshaw. Its main rôle is to run Canalway Cavalcade, but it also looks after matters concerning other events within the Region. *London Afloat 1994* is the brain-child of this Committee. Ian Ferguson, on behalf of the Committee, has produced a report on the use of Hackney Marshes for a future National, to which National Waterways Festivals are giving serious consideration.

The Committee's main work, however, remains Canalway Cavalcade, and despite the lack of sponsorship this produces a consistently high profit which is donated to worthwhile waterway causes. At the February social in Mottingham, Branch and Region between them presented £1,000 to our National Chairman, David Stevenson for the Montgomery. Of Region and Branch donations nationally, our Branch and Region between them gave about one-third of the total donated to the Montgomery and a similar percentage to outside organisations. WELL DONE, those involved—as Region Chairman I am proud to hear such figures.

The other Region Sub-committee is Planning and Navigation, under Ron Bingham. This considers planning applications and other similar matters within the Region, and I would like to thank Ron on your behalf for the endless meetings he attends and the mountains of correspondence he deals with. One subject of concern is the North Circular Aqueduct, where we have been particularly concerned at the length of time the work is taking, and have recently threatened legal action in the form of a Judicial Review.

ROLE OF THE REGION CHAIRMAN

The Region Chairman chairs the Region Committee and is responsible for settling disputes between Branch Chairmen. In this respect I have had an easy time as Mike Stevens has not had a single argument with himself—at least not one that he has asked me to resolve!

The Region Chairman also represents members in his Region on Council, the governing body of IWA, with its many committees and working groups. I serve on Navigation, Technical and Amenities Committee (with Ron Bingham), membership working group, information working group, Jubilee working group and Campaign Committee, and report regularly on them to Region Committee. I have introduced the membership benefits package, and hope it will be of benefit to individual members, and to the Association in the recruitment and retention of members. I would like to thank my office staff for the clerical back-up they have given me: without their help I would not be able to take on such a work-load.

THE NATIONAL

As you know, this year's National Waterways Festival at Waltham Abbey is only just outside our Region. It has a large number of Region members on its Committee, but we still need more volunteers to help with tasks on site during the event.

NATIONAL MATTERS

I shall not repeat things you will read in the pages of *IWA Waterways*, but I would like to thank our small and hard-working Head Office Staff, very often forgotten or taken for granted. It can't be easy having 23 bosses to keep happy!

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

Michael Essex-Lopresti's sterling efforts with his ever-popular canal walks have been drawn to the attention of Council, and we were pleased that he accepted the honorary post of Region Vice-President. Congratulations also to the Region's two national award-winners this year: Mike Stevens and his team who won the *Canal and Riverboat Tom Rolt Award for Excalibur*, and Rosie Limming who won the *John Heap Salver* for her work with the Sales Stand.

I thank Mike West and David Allison-Beer for their help during my early days on Council, and members of the Region Committee and Subcommittees for their hard work.

My best wishes to the new Branches that will be formed during the year.

The above is an edited version of the Report which Mike Stimpson gave at the Region A.G.M.

Welcome home - to the moorings you've always wanted

Available

Whatever boat you own - be it traditional Narrowboat, GRP Cruiser or classic Wooden Craft - you want to know she's moored on a site about which you can feel proud.

Friendly

At last you have a choice!

Receptive

Phase One at Willowtree Marina is now complete and we'll be delighted to welcome you.

Accessible

Moorings in West London's newest and brightest purpose-built Marina

Convenient

The promise of warm and personal service to you, your family and friends

Handy

An individual berth for your craft and all the facilities demanded by today's discerning Boatowner

Relaxing

Ideally positioned right in the middle of the Paddington Arm of the Grand Union Canal

Peaceful

Large car park with excellent road connections for A40, M4 and M25

Well stocked Chandlery, a slipway and a large modern Engineering Workshop opening soon

Bistro Restaurant and Wine Bar with a range of quality food and drink at affordable prices coming shortly

Rural setting surrounded by green parkland and including a planned Equestrian Centre

For your free brochure containing further details and a mooring application, write to:

**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

HILLINGDON TOWPATH RENEWAL

As part of the celebrations of the bicentenary of the Grand Junction Canal, its towpath through the London Borough of Hillingdon has been given a face-lift. The 'Hillingdon Canal Project' was initiated by the Borough as a Community Development Project and achieved in partnership with British Waterways and the Colne Valley Groundwork Trust, with the assistance of the Stockley Park Consortium and other local businesses. The project has restored some of the original features to their former glory and improved access to encourage more people to explore the canal between Bull's Bridge and Packet Boat Lane. The towpath has been resurfaced, bridges painted, shrubs and trees planted and mooring bollards, mile posts, seating and new information boards have all been installed.

The completed work was launched on 29 March with a ceremony at the improved access point near West Drayton station, when the Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor George Booth unveiled a new mural, designed by 15-year-old Stuart Larner, a pupil at Chantry School, West Drayton. Stuart's design has been realised in coloured bricks by Groundwork Colne Valley. The bricks were supplied at cost by Ibstock Building Products. Your Editor was a guest at the ceremony and very impressed by the improvements that have been made here and at other access points in the vicinity. (Picture page 11).

A new leaflet has been published, with financial support from Glaxo, to help visitors and local people to explore the canal. It is available free of charge from local libraries and the Colne Valley Park Centre in Denham.

COMMUNITY BOAT PROJECTS

Because of pressures of both space and time for this issue, the next instalment of our occasional series about Community Boats has been held over until the Autumn edition. Many thanks to those projects, three or four of them, who have contacted me: I hope to get round to all of you in time.

OVERHEARD ON BOARD

Lindy Foster tells me of two remarks by visitors to her hire-boat at Canalway Cavalcade which show just how far we have to go in showing the public what canal boating's really like. One family weren't at all happy that the boat's sun-roof had to be operated manually: they expected it to be electric. Another group were talking of hiring a boat from Berkhamsted for a couple of days to visit the Shannon.

NEW LONDON WATERWAY BOOKS

1994, with the advent of *London Afloat* and the prospect of the National, has produced a welcome crop of new or up-dated publications about waterways in or near London.

Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti's *Exploring the Regent's Canal* (KAF Brewin Books) has come out in a new edition, the fourth. Comparing it with my well-thumbed first edition, my first impression was that it is significantly expanded, at 101 pages of text and illustrations compared with 77. This impression was borne out when I sampled a few chapters. I reckon to know the Regent's pretty well: I have been in Michael's team of walk guides for several years and have picked his brain quite extensively, but his new edition provides quite a lot of facts I'd not come across before, as well as some new photographs. An addendum brings the information right up to the opening of the Limehouse Link Tunnel in May 1993. The book consists of two main sections, a chronological account of the canal's history followed by a tour of it from West to East, the latter with helpful sketch-maps. Both sections include a massive amount of information without sacrificing readability. Even more than previous editions, this is the book about the Regent's Canal. It's not a cruising guide, but useful for the passenger or the walker rather than the steerer, and excellent reading at home or in the cabin at the end of the day.

Another welcome revision is of *A Guide to the Lee and Stort Navigations*, by Ken Oliver, Sally Pribul and Richard Thomas (editor), published by the Lee and Stort Planning Amenities Forum. This is a guide for boaters and ramblers. A few chapters of general introduction include historical articles by John Boyes on the navigations and Brian Daubney on the surrounding industry. Contributions from British Waterways, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the Lee Valley Anglers' Consultative Association cover useful general topics, and lead into the main part of the guide, a description of the navigations from South to North, illustrated by very clear full-page 2-colour maps. The maps and text between them provide all that the boater or walker is likely to ask: distances, lock sizes, connecting roads, bus routes and railways, navigational hints, places to visit, pubs, boating, sporting and shopping facilities. The book is wire-bound, so it will lie flat on your cabin top or hatch-slide

while you are cruising. It is another book well-known to me in its first edition, but so well revised that I have bought two copies: one for home and one for the boat. Unless you know the Lee and Stort so well that you don't need a guide to them, this one is well worth its price of £5.95, and even if you do, it's probably worth it just for the many excellent period photographs which occur at very frequent intervals.

St Pancras Cruising Club's **A boater's guide to the London Waterways** differs from the two books above by being a totally new creation, a special edition of their magazine *Panchat*, edited by Dr Roger Squires and priced at £1.50. This meets a long-felt need for a readable guide to the whole of London's waterways in a single book. As well as articles on tideway safety, upper river safety, rowing, locks, petrol safety and emergencies, it describes the waterways as a series of cruises: the Thames tideway, Brentford to Limehouse by canal, the Eastenders Cruise around the Isle of Dogs, the Slough Canal, Bow's Creeks and Rivers and what it calls the East London Ring (and I think of as the Limehouse/Duckett's ring). For cruising the tideway, the book recommends one to use it in conjunction with a proper chart. It provides sketch-maps for the other cruises, but I think I would choose to use it in conjunction with the maps in either Nicholson's or (even better) Chris Cove-Smith's London's Waterway Guide, which lacks the excellent descriptive sections of the St Pancras book, and is now rather out-of-date (I hear a new edition is planned for 1995).

200 CLUB APRIL WINNERS

£52 no. 166 Mr David West Lower Halstow
£26 no. 95 Mr J S Rose London NW11
£12 no. 44 Mr A J Butterworth Chelsfield
£12 no. 53 Mr Ben Scott London SW16

BRANCH COMMITTEE VACANCIES

At the Branch AGM, we announced that we were looking for some fresh blood on the Branch Committee. Specifically we were then in need of a Branch Secretary and a Minutes Secretary. We are very pleased that a former Branch Secretary, Marcia Davies, has agreed to resume that post. We are still looking for a Minutes Secretary: could that be you? We also have more vacancies to which people could be co-opted if volunteers come forward. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Mike Stevens or any member of the Branch Committee (See page 2).

As explained on page 3, we are also setting up a new Section for North-East London, with the intention that it will eventually become a Branch in its own right. Once again we need some Committee members. Alan and Kathy Russell have already stepped forward, and there

are a number of the 'old lags' giving them a hand to get things going. But it would be great if we had some more new people willing to help: too many of us are wearing multiple hats at the moment. We want more people so that the work can be spread out more. How about it? If you live or work in North-East London (or even if you don't), and would like to volunteer, please contact the Russells (address/phone on page 2).

HERITAGE CLUB CANAL WEEKEND

While Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti is best-known for his expertise about the Regent's Canal (see above), his activities extend much further. He has devised a canal weekend which he will lead for the Heritage Club on 24-26 June, based in the Country Court Hotel in Newbury and visiting the Kennet and Avon, Oxford and Wilts and Berks Canals and the Thames. The cost will be £148, including full board at the hotel, all visits and a boat trip on the K and A. Details of this and other weekends are available from The Heritage Club, PO Box 31, Moss House, King Street, Belper, Derbyshire, DE5 1YN, tel 0773-828484.

GIVE HIM ENOUGH ROPE?

BW are considering doing away with the last rope-operated lock gates on the Lee and Stort Navigations, which has upset some historically-minded enthusiasts such as your Editor. This system, once prevalent on both navigations, now only survives on the bottom gates at Rammey Marsh Lock. Waterways Manager Mark Bensted has told me that the proposed change is because the method is hard to use and has caused injuries. I have spoken to a number of boaters (not all young and fit) who don't find the rope-operated gates particularly hard to use, and suggest that the problems come when boaters unused to rope-operated gates pull at the wrong angle. Our Navigation Officer, Ron Bingham, points out that a better plan would be to restore the original form of rope-operation, with the rope passing from a fixed point at one end, through a pulley on the gate to where it is pulled by the boater. This halves the force needed and also makes sure that even if a boater pulls his end of the rope at the wrong angle, the other half of the rope will be pulling in the right direction. If you want to protest about the change, please write to Mark Bensted, Waterway Manager, British Waterways, The Toll Office, Delamere Terrace, London, W2 6ND.

BACK-LOG OF MAINTENANCE?

A sharp-eyed reader noticed the following in a recent Region report:

'It was noted with regret that our National Chairman, David Stevenson, may not be repointed...'

Perhaps London WRG could take on the job.

Regent's Canal sighting of HMS Belfast

CANALWAY CAVALCADE 1994



*The winner of the Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy
Jan and Pam Smith's Victoria M, disguised as HMS Belfast*

Photo: Mike Stevens

EVEN THE SUN JOINED THE FUN

The arrival of Summer in time for the May Day Bank Holiday weekend brought the crowds to Little Venice for Canalway Cavalcade.

Around 130 boats, some from as far afield as Runcorn, Cheshire, and many of them Cavalcade 'regulars', formed the main spectacle and thousands of visitors came to see what the waterways offer and to enjoy the many entertainments and sales stands.

The event was opened by our Region President, Illyd Harrington, after speeches of welcome by Mike Stimpson (Region Chairman), Peter Coyne (BW Regional Manager) and David Allison-Beer (IWA Management Committee).

The opening ceremony also launched *London Afloat 1994*, of which you can read more on the next pages.

One big surprise was an appearance by HMS Belfast, a disguise by Jan and Pam Smith of their replica inspection launch, *Victoria M*, a clear winner as the best-decorated boat.

THREE NEW AWARDS

Among other prizes were three new ones, one for the best traditional "Boaters' Sunday Best" costumes. This was donated by Alec and Betty Gosling, Canalway Cavalcade 'regulars' for some years, in memory of their friend Vic Trott, another 'regular' who died a few months ago. The award was won by Peter and Moira Chalk on their first visit to Cavalcade with nb *Vulcan*, which also won the boat-handling competition steered by their daughter, Jenny. It was good news that Alec and Betty, along with Shirley, Vic's widow, were commended in the Marcus Boudier Trophy.

Another new award was for the best decoration of a boat by a Community Group or Society, which was won by London WRG (last year's winners of the Marcus Boudier Trophy) on nb *Fulbourne*.

The third new award was in memory of Jane Barrett, another Cavalcade 'regular' who died recently. Because of her long-standing enthusiasm for and help with the Teddy Bears' Picnic, this included a special prize in her name.

BRANCH CHAIRMAN TAKEN FOR A RIDE

The boat-handling competition seems to have more competitors each year, and this year included some non-competitive demonstrations by breasted pairs. This year it was my turn to be commentator for the Monday morning session. The best position from which to do this is the bow of one of the boats about half-way along the moorings and this year the boat in the optimum position was Adrian Steinkamp's *Chyna Too*. So there I was, standing on the front of Adrian's boat, chatting away into the radio-mike with another Committee member next to me with a walkie-talkie to relay messages from the folk running the event. Suddenly I was moving! *Chyna Too* was taking part in the competition under the helmsmanship of Ian Ferguson. This had been carefully kept secret from me. But it's not surprising that I knew nothing about it. As Publicity Officer for the event, they're all used to telling me nothing: that's why I have to make so much up.

LOTS GOING ON

There was plenty to do for boaters and visitors alike. Richard Bird had somehow surpassed his previous record for the number of traders on site. Once again visitors were able to look over a hire-boat, brought from Berkhamsted by Mike and Lindy Foster of Bridgewater Boats, along with a second boat for use by the Committee, for which we thank them. We had a wide selection of music, some on our floating bandstand. The Daystar Theatre Company were with us once again with two shows, including their latest, *Going Grey*, which received its premiere at the boaters' entertainment on Saturday evening and its first public showing the next day.

Graham Nunn and his Church Army team on nb *Hartley Harlequin* once again laid on a programme of activities for children, reaching its climax on Sunday afternoon with the Teddy Bears' Picnic. Canoe displays on Sunday and Monday by the Meanwhile Gardens Association drew excellent audiences.

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

PRIZE-WINNERS

THE MARCUS BOUDIER MEMORIAL TROPHY:
THE BEST DECORATED BOAT

Winner—Jan and Pam Smith on replica
inspection launch *Victoria M.*

Runners-up—Alec and Betty Gosling on nb *Betty G.*
John and Doreen Sawyer on nb *Sorrel*.
Shirley Trott on nb *Tristan III*.

BEST DECORATION OF A BOAT BY A COMMUNITY
GROUP OR SOCIETY

Winners— London Waterway Recovery Group on
nb *Fulbourne*.

Runners-up—The Church Army, Bexhill Youth
Centre, on nb *Hartley Harlequin*.

THE CRUISE ELECTRIC TROPHY FOR THE BEST
ILLUMINATED BOAT

Winners— Paul and Pauline Westcott on
nb *Myosotis*.

Runners-up—Bill Barthram on cruiser *Vic Huckle*.
Highly commended—Richard Chester-Browne on
inflatable *Tender Too*.

THE VIC TROTT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR
"BOATERS' SUNDAY BEST" COSTUMES

Winners— Peter and Moira Chalk

THE WESTMINSTER TROPHY FOR
BOAT-HANDLING

Winner— Jenny Chalk on nb *Vulcan*.
2nd— Phil Bittner on nb *Barnham*.
3rd— Bernard Hales on tug *Enterprise no.1*.

THE PROGRAMME PRIZE, a week's holiday on a
luxury holiday narrowboat, was
donated by Bridgewater Boats of
Berkhamsted and won by a local
resident, J Scott.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Proceeds from Canalway Cavalcade go to waterways restoration and waterway-related community groups. This year's profits are likely to be down on recent years, for lack of a major financial sponsor, but we should like to thank British Waterways for use of their facilities and for help with publicity, the City of Westminster for use of the grass site, London Electricity for sponsoring the programme booklet, Playlight Hire for all sorts of help with things electrical, Zenith Media for parking space for our traders, *The Old Father Thames* pub for hosting our committee meetings, Laburnum Boat Club for the use of their boat *Opportunity*, Alan Cheal who donated his time in type-setting the programme booklet, and all the other firms who bought advertising space in the programme, or donated goods or services free or at reduced cost to help make the event a success.

NEXT YEAR

Canalway Cavalcade 1995 will again be on the early May Bank Holiday weekend, which will be a week later than usual, 6–8 May.

London Afloat 1994

AN EXCITING PROGRAMME

1994 is an exciting year for anyone interested in London's waterways. Canalway Cavalcade was the start of London IWA's campaign to make Londoners aware of the rivers, canals and reservoirs around them and their potential for recreation and sport: **LONDON AFLOAT 1994.**

Each year, many events on and about the waterways are small and locally organised, with only the members of the organising group knowing about them. Through *London Afloat 1994*, IWA London Region is helping these groups to reach a wider audience by collecting the details and publishing a list of events in and around London throughout the rest of the year.

There will be walks along the canals and rivers, lectures and exhibitions and, of course, the IWA Social meetings all through the year. 1994 has also seen the publication of some new or revised books about London's waterways, which are described elsewhere in this edition of *Excalibur*.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

But some of the events taking place later in the summer should be highlighted. The first of these will take place over the weekend of 20th/21st August at Limehouse Basin.

This will be the first Limehouse Festival for several years, and will celebrate the basin's new life as a marina and leisure facility. Limehouse Basin can be found by the northern entrance of the Rotherhithe road tunnel. The Festival is being organised jointly by IWA London Region, British Waterways, London Docklands Development Corporation and the Limehouse Co-operative, and will include cruises round the Isle of Dogs (the Eastenders Cruise) and along the Bow Back Rivers. These are being organised by the St Pancras Cruising Club with London IWA and will help to fulfil one of the other aims of London Afloat 1994—to encourage boaters and others to visit the lesser-known waterways in and around the capital.

The largest single event will be the National Waterways Festival at Waltham Abbey (27–29 August), on the River Lee. The National

Waterways Festival is the principal event arranged by IWA each year. Many people remember when the Festival was last at Waltham Abbey in 1989. This year it will be bigger, with the inclusion for the first time of vintage buses and cars as well as all its familiar attractions, such as the Waterways for Youth events for children visiting the Festival.

London Afloat 1994 grew from the thought that we might put on a few events to catch the interest of boaters passing through London on the way to and from the National: to attract them into stopping and looking at London's waterways rather than just rushing through.

The weekend after the National there will be a tideway cruise from Limehouse up the River Thames to Brentford, once again organised by St Pancras Cruising Club in conjunction with London IWA, and on Sunday 4 September there will be the Angel Canal Day at Islington.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The programme of events from May to September contains many more than we had room for in the Waterways Events section of *Excalibur*, despite stretching the latter to 4 pages this time. A *London Afloat 1994* booklet, listing all of them, was launched at Canalway Cavalcade and is available by post, price 50p including postage, from:

IWA London Region
c/o 58 Blurton Road
Clapton
London E5 0NJ

AND THERE'S AN AWARD

Many museums and places of interest along London's waterways are taking part in the **LONDON AFLOAT 1994 AWARD**. By visiting these during the year and getting a 'passport' marked to show that you have been there, you can apply for this award. Details of the participating places can also be obtained from the address above.

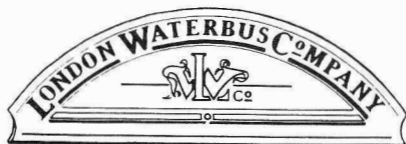
LET 1994 BE THE YEAR WHEN YOU DISCOVER LONDON'S WATERWAYS FOR YOUR SPORT OR RECREATION.

We stamp the passport on request



Participants at the unveiling of a mural at the rejuvenated towpath access point at West Drayton. (Story page 6). Left to right: Peter Coyne (BW Regional Manager), Cllr. George Booth (Mayor of Hillingdon), Elizabeth John (Colne Valley Groundwork Trust), Stuart Lerner (designer of the mural).

PHOTO: Mike Stevens.



DAY TRIPS

Exploring the history and industrial archaeology of the Regent's & Grand Union Canals in London.

EASTWARDS to **LIMEHOUSE**
or the **RIVER LEE**
WESTWARDS to **BRENTFORD**
and our first ever
LONDON RING CRUISE -
the canal & Thames in one day.

Full commentary given.
Tickets from £8.75

Tel. 071-482 2550 Mon-Fri
London Waterbus Company

London Canal Museum

Canal Museum Trust Regd Charity 277484

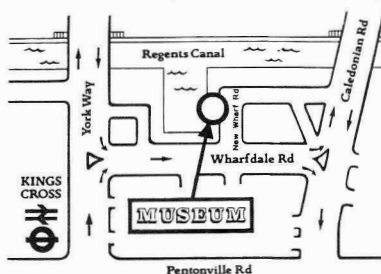
The story of London's Canals & Ice Trade

Admission: Adults £2.50; others £1.25

Facilities for school groups and parties

Canal books, maps, guides, canal-ware & canal holiday brochures from the shop

**Museum and shop open Tuesday to Sunday
and on Bank Holidays 10.00 am to 4.30 pm**



**12-13 New Wharf Road, Kings Cross,
London, N1 9RT Tel: 071 713 0836.**

Waterways Events in and around London

JUNE 1994

Tuesday 14th: 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK—THE NEW RIVER: Highbury TO ANGEL. Meet at Highbury/Islington tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Tuesday 14th: 8pm	LONDON IWA: MIDDLESEX SECTION	SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Quiz night against Chiltern and Herts Branches. Contact: Alison Struckett (Address on page 2)
Thursday 16th: 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON IWA	LONDON SOCIAL MEETING Barbecue at Little Venice. Contact: Tim Lewis (081-530 7926).
Wednesday 15th: 8pm	LONDON IWA: CROYDON	SOCIAL MEETING at the Ship Inn, High Street, Croydon (South of the central pedestrian area: 10 mins walk from either East Croydon or West Croydon BR). Waterway Users Forum with boaters, anglers, walkers etc. Contact: Mike Stevens (081-674 9387)
Weekend 18th/19th	LONDON W.R.G.	Dig on the Wey/Arun Canal. Contact Tim Lewis (081-367 6227)
Sunday 19th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK BOW BACK RIVERS/THREE MILLS. Meet at Bromley-by-Bow tube station. About 2 ½ hours. £4 (Concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Sunday 19th	COLNE VALLEY GROUNDWORK TRUST	Widewater Lock Circular Walk: 6-mile walk along the Grand Union Canal to Bayhurst Wood Country Park. Contact 0895-832662
Wednesday 22nd 6.45pm	THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	Canal Walk: The Grand Union to the Thames. Start at Boston Manor Tube Station.
Friday 24th	BOROUGH OF EALING NATURE CONSERVATION SERVICE	Evening canal boat trip in Ealing. Contact 081-758 5916
Saturday 25th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	Day boat trip to Docklands. Adults £9.75, Seniors £8.75. Contact 071-482 2250.
Weekend 25th/26th	ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB	Rally. Contact 071-728 2805
Tuesday 28th: 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK REGENT'S CANAL: PADDINGTON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

JULY 1994

Friday 1st	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Outdoor dance at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Sunday 3rd: 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK 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)
Sunday 3rd	LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING	Ealing Countryside Day at Horsenden Hill. Contact 081-758 5916.
Wednesday 6th 6.45pm	THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	Canal Walk from Hayes/Harlington station to Slough.
Friday 8th	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Outdoor dance at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Saturday 9th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	Day boat trip from Camden Lock to Springfield Park on the River Lee. Adults £9.75, Seniors £8.75. Contact 071-482 2250.

Weekend 9th/10th	BRENTFORD CARNIVAL/BOAT RALLY	Contact: Jim Mason (081- 568 7041)
Weekend 9th/10th	LONDON W.R.G.	Dig on the Thames/Severn Canal. Contact Leslie McFadyen (081-693 3266)
Sunday 10th	NORTH LONDON YOUTH SAILING TRUST	Try Sailing Afternoon at Banbury Reservoir, London E4. Adults £6, Youth £3. Contact 081-523 1127.
Tuesday 12th: 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK 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)
Wednesday 13th: 7.30pm	LEE VALLEY PARK	Sunset over the Lee Navigation: a chance to discover the wildlife that emerges at sunset. Meet at Tottenham Hale station. Contact 0992-713838.
Thursday 14th: 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	Lecture: <i>Boating in London</i> by Roger Squires. Doors open at 6.45pm. Tickets £2 (students etc £1) at the door. Advance booking 071-713 0836.
Friday 15th	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Outdoor dance at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Saturday 16th	ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB	Cruise to Little Venice. Contact 071-278 2805
16 July to 30 August	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	Exhibition: <i>Measham Ware, Lace plates and interior canal boat decoration</i>
Sunday 17th: 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK 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 17th	NORTH LONDON YOUTH SAILING TRUST	Try Sailing Afternoon at Banbury Reservoir, London E4. Adults £6, Youth £3. Contact 081-523 1127.
Wednesday 20th: 6.45pm	THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	Canal walk: the River Lee. Meet at Bethnal Green Station.
Friday 22nd	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Outdoor dance at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Saturday 23rd	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	Day boat trip from Camden Lock to Limehouse Basin/return via the Hertford Union. Adults £9.75, Seniors £8.75. Contact 071-482 2250.
Tuesday 26th : 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK REGENT'S CANAL: PADDINGTON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
Friday 29th	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Outdoor dance at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Saturday 30th	TRADFEST	Traditional working boats rally at Surrey Docks Watersports Centre. Contact 071-237 4009
Saturday 30th	BOROUGH OF EALING	Boat trip from the Old Oak Tree pub, Southall, to the Common, Hanwell. Contact: 081-758 5916
Weekend 30th/31st	LONDON W.R.G.	Dig on the Wey/Arun Canal. Contact Tim Lewis (081-367 6227)
Sunday 31st	BOROUGH OF NEWHAM	Water Safety Day at Royal Victoria Dock Watersports Centre. Contact 071-511 2326.

AUGUST 1994

Wednesday 3rd	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Kentish Town City Farm at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Wednesday 3rd	LEE VALLEY PARK	Come and try angling. Tuition/tackle available for 12-16 year-olds. Cost £2, please book in advance. Contact 0992-713838.
Wednesday 3rd: 6.45pm	THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	Canal walk to Horsendon Hill. Meet at Alperton Station.
Saturday 6th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	Day boat trip from Camden Lock to Limehouse Basin/return via the Hertford Union. Adults £9.75, Seniors £8.75. Contact 071-482 2250.

Sunday 7th: 2.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK 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)
Sunday 7th	ROYAL VICTORIA DOCKS	Family funday at Royal Victoria Dock Watersports Centre. Contact 071-511 2326.
Tuesday 9th: 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK 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)
Tuesday 9th	LEE VALLEY PARK	Water lot of fun! Pond-dipping, wildlife, mime/movement activities at the Countryside Centre, Waltham Abbey. Adults free, children £2.20. Contact 0992-713838.
Wednesday 10th: 7.30pm	LEE VALLEY PARK	Sunset over the Bow Back Rivers: discover the wildlife/history of these secret waterways. Adults £1.20, concession 60p. Contact 0992-713838.
Wednesday 10th	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Kentish Town City Farm at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Thursday 11th: 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	Lecture: <i>Measham Ware, Lace plates and interior canal boat decoration</i> by Mike Beech (Curator, Foxton Museum) Doors open at 6.45 pm. Tickets £2 (students etc £1) at the door. Advance booking 071-713 0836.
Sunday 14th	LEE VALLEY PARK	Middlesex Filter Beds Nature Reserve Open Day (off Lea Bridge Road). Adults £1, concessions 60p. Contact 0992-713838.
Wednesday 17th	URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	Kentish Town City Farm at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457
Wednesday 17th: 6.45pm	THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	Canal walk: The Regent's Canal. Meet at Baker Street Station.
Thursday 18th: 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	Lecture: <i>The Black Country to Black Sea Odyssey</i> by Nick Saunders. Doors open at 6.45 pm. Tickets £2 (students etc £1) at the door. Advance booking 071-713 0836.
Weekend 20th/21st	LONDON IWA WITH BRITISH WATERWAYS, DOCKLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/LIMEHOUSE BASIN CO-OPERATIVE:	Limehouse Festival at Limehouse Basin. Details from Libby Bradshaw (081-874 2787)
Saturday 20th	LONDON WATERBUS COMPANY	Day boat trip from Camden Lock to the Limehouse Festival. Adults £5. Contact 071-482 2250.
Saturday 20th	LONDON IWA WITH ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB	Eastenders Cruise around the Isle of Dogs. Contact 071-278 2805
Saturday 20th	AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION	Hammersmith Summer Rowing Regatta. Contact 081-748 3632
Sunday 21st	LONDON IWA WITH ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB	Bow Back Rivers cruise. Contact 071-278 2805
Sunday 21st: 2.30 pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK 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 21st	COLNE VALLEY PARK CENTRE	Angling Adventure for 8-12 year-olds (accompanied by an adult). Assistance and tackle available. Contact: 071-278 2805.
Monday 22nd to Weds 24th	BRITISH WATERWAYS with URBAN SPACE MANAGEMENT	The Great British Canal Fair at Camden Lock. Contact 071-485 4457 or 071-286 6101.
Tuesday 23rd : 6.30pm	LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'	GUIDED WALK BOW BACK RIVERS AND THREE MILLS. Meet at Bromley-by-Bow tube station. About 2 ½ hours. £4 (Concessions £3). Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)

Wednesday 24th:
7.30 for 8pm

Wednesday 24th

Thursday 25th:
7.30 for 8pm

Friday 26th

Friday 26th

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Weekend 27th to 29th

Wednesday 31st: 6.45pm

31 August to 19 October

MIKRON THEATRE AT THE LONDON CANAL MUSEUM:
New Pubs/Beer Show. Tickets £6 (£5.50 for Friends of the Museum).
Advance booking 071-713 0836.

URBAN SPACE Kentish Town City Farm at Camden Lock.
MANAGEMENT Contact 071-485 4457

MIKRON THEATRE AT THE LONDON CANAL MUSEUM:
Threads of Revolution. Tickets £6 (£5.50 for Friends of the Museum).
Advance booking 071-713 0836.

METROPOLITAN Youth and Community Regatta at Royal Victoria
POLICE Dock Water Sports Centre. Contact 071-511 2326

BOROUGH OF EALING Evening boat trip from the Old Oak Tree pub,
Southall, to Hanwell. Contact: 081-758 5916

Saturday 27th to Monday 29th

NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL AT WALTHAM ABBEY
Adults £5, children £3. Family (2 adults/3 children) £13. Free admission tickets
available for IWA members. Details from IWA Head Office: 071-586 2510/2556

COLNE VALLEY Family trails through the Colne Valley Park. Collect
PARK CENTRE your trail package from the Park Centre and follow
the clues round the Park. Contact 0895-833375

THE RAMBLERS Canal walk: the River Lee. Meet at Bromley-by-Bow
ASSOCIATION Station.
LONDON CANAL Exhibition: *The ice trade and ices*
MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 1994

Sunday 4th: 2.30 pm

LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'

GUIDED WALK 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)
SOCIAL MEETING (Provisional arrangements) at
the George, Liverpool Road, NI, nearest tube Angel.
Contact Alan Russell: 081-529 0689.

Tuesday 6th 8pm

LONDON IWA: ISLINGTON

Lecture: *The River Lee* by John Boyes (author of
'The Canals of Eastern England') Doors open at
6.45 pm. Tickets £2 (students etc £1) at the door.
Advance booking 071-713 0836.
Dig on the Thames/Severn Canal.
Contact Tim Lewis (081-367 6227)

Thursday 8th: 7 for 7.30pm

LONDON CANAL MUSEUM

Weekend 10th/11th

LONDON W.R.G.

Tuesday 13th: 8pm

LONDON IWA: MIDDLESEX BRANCH

SOCIAL MEETING at Hillingdon Canal Club,
Waterloo Road, Uxbridge. Details to be announced.
Contact: Alison Struckett (Address on page 2)

Thursday 15th: 7 for 7.30pm

LONDON IWA: CENTRAL LONDON

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

Sunday 18th: 2.30 pm

LONDON IWA WITH 'LONDON WALKS'

GUIDED WALK REGENT'S CANAL: PADDING-
TON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube
station. About 2 hours. £4 (Concessions £3).
Contact Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti (081-882 1337)
SOCIAL MEETING (Provisional arrangements) at
Hazelmere Marine, Highbridge St, Waltham Abbey
(off Station Road).
Contact Alan Russell: 081-529 0689.

Tuesday 20th 8pm

LONDON IWA: WALTHAM ABBEY

SOCIAL MEETING at The Royal Tavern, Motting-
ham (corner of Court Rd/Sidcup Rd: very close to
Mottingham BR station). Speaker to be announced.
Contact Dorothy Robbie (081-857 6367)

Friday 23rd: 8pm

LONDON IWA: S.E. LONDON

Late News

NEW REGION OFFICERS

At the Region Committee Meeting following the A.G.M., there was a contested election for Region Chairman, which resulted in last year's Chairman, Mike Stimpson, and Vice-Chairman, Eric Garland, exchanging rôles. Other Region Officers were re-elected (see page 2 for details).

THE JUBILEE IS COMING

IWA's Golden Jubilee will be in 1996, and Council is already collecting ideas for how to mark it. Apart from making it the theme of that year's Canalway Cavalcade, the one London-based suggestion that has been made so far is a mass cruise—past of the Houses of Parliament in support whatever turns out to be the main campaign issue of the time. If you have any more ideas, please contact any member of the Branch or Region Committees (see page 2).

COMING TO WALTHAM?

After last year's mini-bus trips from London to the "National" at Peterborough, the Branch has decided that they are worth repeating for this year's "National" at Waltham Abbey: at least for those members on one

of the far sides of London. Details should (if all goes to plan) be on a flier in this issue of *Excalibur*.

As an alternative, if you're already on the right side of London and would like to arrive at the "National" by water, then Adventuress Cruises of Sawbridgeworth are offering special cruises to Waltham as follows:

Friday 26 August, Sawbridgeworth to Waltham Abbey (all-day cruise, departing at 9am, cost £10)

Sunday 28 August & Monday 29 August, Stanstead Abbots to Waltham Abbey (4 hour cruise, departing at 10am, cost £6)

Tuesday 30th August, Waltham Abbey to Sawbridgeworth (all-day cruise departing at 9am, cost £10).

Details are available by 'phoning 0920-870068.

N. CIRCULAR AQUEDUCT

Following pressure from our Planning and Navigation Committee, the towpath over the new aqueduct over the North Circular Road was finally opened, although we were told it would have to be closed for 2 weeks at some time for further work. Any "sightings" of dates when it is or is not open will be welcomed by our Navigation Officer, Ron Bingham.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

There will be a Special General of the London Branch of the I.W.A. at 7.30pm on Thursday 21 July at the London Canal Museum, 12/13 New Wharf Road, Kings Cross, London, N1 9RT. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider the following resolutions from the Branch Committee:—

1. That on 1 September 1994 the Middlesex Section of London Branch will become a full Branch.
2. That at a subsequent date within the following twelve months (to be determined by the Branch Committee) a further new Branch be formed, to be called the North East London Branch. That at the time of the second change, the existing London Branch will be re-designated as South London Branch.
3. That the boundaries of the new Branches, and their responsibility for waterways, shall be as in notes (1) and (2) below.
4. That the funds of London Branch as at 31 December 1994 shall be divided between the three Branches in equal thirds.

NOTES

(1) BRANCH BOUNDARIES

The new Branches shall include the following post-code areas (or, where relevant, those parts of them that are currently included in London Branch):

MIDDLESEX BRANCH: post-code areas HA, KT, NW, TW, UB and W.

NORTH-EAST LONDON BRANCH: post-code areas E, EN, IG, N, RM, WC and EC.

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH: post-code areas BR, CR, DA, SE, SM, SW and TN.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATERWAYS

MIDDLESEX BRANCH: That part of the Grand Union Main line within London Region. The Paddington Branch from Bull's Bridge to the footbridge immediately West of Little Venice (Ha'penny Bridge).

NORTH-EAST LONDON BRANCH: The Paddington Branch from Ha'penny bridge to Paddington Basin. The Regent's Canal. The Hertford Union. That part of the Lee Navigation within London Region, including the Bow Back Rivers and Bow Creek. Barking Creek and the River Roding. Docklands waterways north of the Thames.

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH: That part of the Thames within London Region, together with all its navigable creeks not mentioned above. Docklands waterways South of the Thames. The Kensington and Grosvenor Canals.



Smallsword

The Younger Person's View of our Inland Waterways

Issue 5

Autumn 1994

What is the IWA? And What does it do for us?

The Inland Waterways Association is approaching it's Golden Jubilee, 50 years of campaigning, restoring and promoting our Inland Waterways. It started when a few people got together and saw that though the roads were taking over from the waterways for the transport of goods the waterways could have an important future.

The Inland Waterways Association has promoted "Waterways for Youth" for many years, but what does

that campaign mean to us?

A very successful part of that campaign is the Passport Scheme at the larger festivals each year. Many thousands of passports have been issued, and the activities on offer have been enjoyed at the event. But what happens for the rest of the year?

We would like your ideas about what can be organised for us. Would you like a fishing competition? Would you like a guided walk along the canals? What would you like? If you tell us we can try to do it. Please send your ideas to Sidonie Ferguson, 58 Blurton Road, Clapton, London, E5 0NJ.

Tow-path Cycling



British Waterways are re-introducing a cycling permit scheme. If you wish to cycle along the towing path you will need a permit, which you must display on your bicycle.

The permits are free, and you can get them from British Waterways offices.

All you have to do is give the office your name and address.

With the permit you will get the Cycling Code of Conduct.

If you cycle on the towing path contact British Waterways and get your permit.

Who Pulled the Plug on the Regents Canal?

During the summer a careless boat crew left one of the paddles open at a lock in Camden.

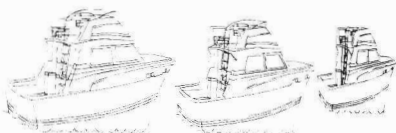
They also left the gates of the lock open when they left. The result was that a pound was almost completely drained.

The lack of water was found by Mr Chi Chun when instead of a canal of water all he found was mud as far as the eye could see.

British Waterways staff refilled the pound. About 12,500,000 litres of water were drained out of the pound.

Please make sure that when you leave a lock all of the gates are closed, and the paddles are all down, you might be on the next boat one day.

Traffic Jam on the Bow Back Rivers



On 21st August there were slow moving boats on the Bow Back Rivers in the East End of London.

About 50 boats cruised from the Limehouse Festival, along the Limehouse Cut and River Lee to Old Ford Lock (Home of the Big Breakfast), and then back to Limehouse via the Back Rivers.

There were so many boats that the first boats coming out met the last boats going in.

Some fisherman fishing off of Global Wharf in Stratford had boats going past them nose to tail for over 4 hours.

One fisherman said that it was just like London Traffic in the rush hour, then he added, "but you are travelling faster".

Trains at Holme Lock

The Lock Keeper at Holme Lock on the River Trent is a model engineer in his spare time, and has built a 5" gauge model railway around his garden.

When he is off duty some weekends he can be seen driving his trains around the garden, and sometimes he gives young boaters a ride on his railway whilst their parents are working the boat through the lock.

Speeding on the River

Speeding boats, water skiers and jet skis have become such a problem on the River Severn and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal that the British Waterways patrols are now using radar guns, like the ones used on roads, to trap speeding boaters.

Waterway Buildings

One of the pleasures of our Waterways are the buildings that have been along their banks, many of them for over 100 years.

The pleasure of being next to a canal or river is sought after by many builders of both homes and shopping centres. In particular the large supermarkets seem to like to be next to water.

This is all a very nice idea, but it does cause a problem. Should the builders be allowed to build, or should the old buildings stay?

There is not a simple answer, sometimes the new buildings will improve the scene, but there is the risk that something that is loved will be lost.

If you don't tell people that you like the buildings then they might not be there next time, as no one said that they were important.

London is an Island

47 Boats, most of which were on their way home from the Waltham Abbey National Waterways Festival, left Limehouse Lock on Saturday 3rd September to cruise along the Thames to Brentford.

Most of these boats had travelled to the Festival along the Regents Canal, and their journey along the Thames meant that they had cruised right around London, encircling most of London's tourist sites without going along the same stretch of canal or river twice.

Smallword is published by IWA London Branch with **Excalibur**, the London Newsletter of the Inland Waterways Association, at 114 Regent's Park Road London NW1 8UG.

The IWA may not agree with the opinions expressed in this magazine but encourages publication as a matter of interest. Nothing printed may be considered as policy or an official announcement unless so stated, otherwise the Association accepts no liability for any matter in the magazine.

© IWA London Branch 1994

Editor Ian Ferguson, 58 Blurton Road, London, E5 0NJ.