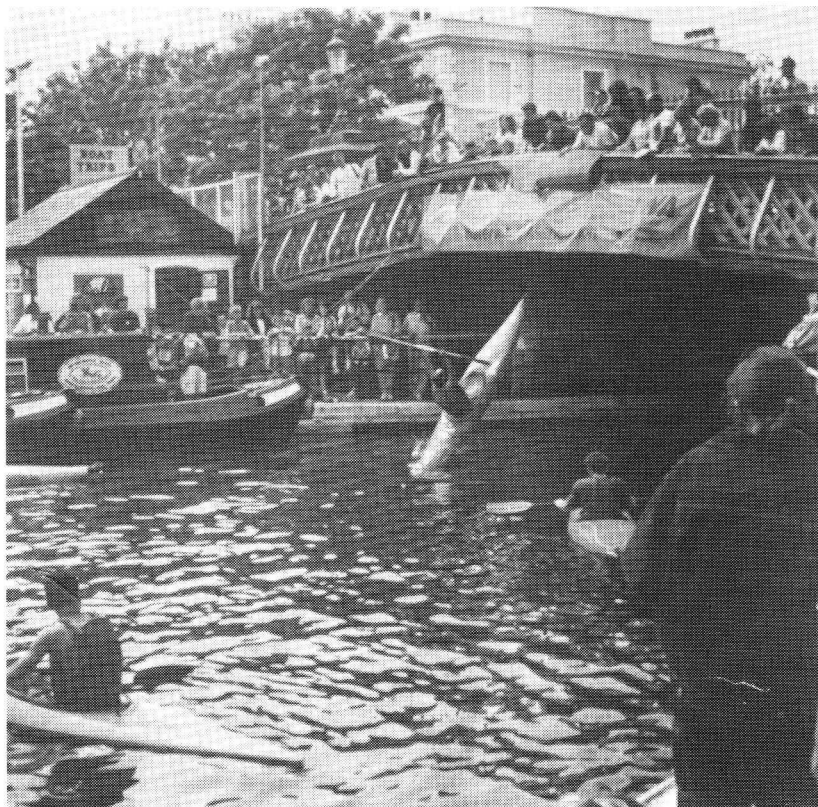


Excalibur

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

NUMBER 18, SPRING 1995

Editor: Mike Stevens, 333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS—Telephone: 0181-674 9387



At Canalway Cavalcade 1993. This year's event is previewed on pages 4/5

Photo: Richard Packer

WHO'S WHO IN LONDON IWA

* = answerphone

LONDON REGION

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Lecturers panel organiser

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Ron Bingham — 0181 855 3693

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Vernon Draper — 0181 668 5522

Alan Russell — 0181 529 0689

(NE London Section Convenor)

Mike Stevens — 0181 674 9387*

(London Branch Chairman)

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

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nb Aquinas, The Boatyard

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(Becomes South London Branch from 1 March)

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(Waterways for Youth contact and Membership Recruitment Officer)

Marion Waters — 0181 530 4767

(Publicity Officer)

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(London Ring Plaques distribution)

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(Becomes NE London Branch on 1 March)

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From the Editor

NOW WE ARE THREE (OR SOON WILL BE)

The Branch Committee has now confirmed its provisional decision that the final stage of splitting London IWA into three Branches will take place on 1 March. Middlesex Branch has been in existence since 1 September, and the remains of the original London Branch will now be divided into North-East London and South London Branches.

Unless they choose otherwise, members will be allocated to the new Branches according to the post-code of the address where they are listed in IWA's records as follows (Some post-codes are split between more than one IWA Region; we claim only the parts allocated to London Region by IWA Council):

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

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

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

Overseas and out-of-area members of the Region will, unless they choose otherwise, be placed in South London Branch (because this is a re-naming of the old London Branch rather than a new creation).

Any member wishing to be placed in a Branch other than as described above has that right, and should contact Kerstin Michaels at IWA Head Office (address below).

Each IWA Branch takes responsibility for particular waterways, and these will be:

MIDDLESEX BRANCH: The GU Main line from Brentford to Batchworth Bridge. 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. The Lee south of the M25, including Bow Back Rivers and Bow Creek. Barking Creek and the River Roding. Docklands waterways north of the Thames.

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH: The Thames from Teddington Weir to the old GLC boundary (Dartford Creek/Purfleet), together with all its navigable creeks not mentioned above. Docklands waterways south of the Thames. The Kensington and Grosvenor Canals.

This change is something that we have been planning for a long time. All three Branches have active social venues, and each will receive a significant financial "inheritance" from the old London Branch and have income from existing activities, to which they may want to add in due course.

Middlesex Branch Committee is, of course, already in place, and the other two will be appointed at the forthcoming AGMs (details on page 10). Several experienced members of the present Branch Committee are willing to serve on one or other of the three Branch Committees, but we need to supplement them with some new faces. Remember, the more people volunteer, the smaller the task any one has to take on. A good turn-out at the AGMs will be a big help: please try to be there and play your part.

Excalibur will continue much as it is, as a Region publication rather than a Branch one, transfer of its finances from Branch to Region having happened on 1 January. I look forward to publishing news and announcements from all three Branches in London.

I shall certainly miss being Chairman of London Branch. There is something exciting about chairing the Branch that represents the Capital City. My address puts me in South London Branch, and I shall offer my services there in whatever capacity I may be needed, although I shall continue to take an interest in our other two Branches. In the case of Middlesex, this will be made all the easier by the fact that we now moor *Felis Catus II* at Hillingdon Canal Club, where the Branch meets. Islington is very easy for me to get to, so I shall be able to keep in contact with NE London Branch, although I will not be sorry to be spared the long journey to Waltham Abbey each month.

I think we have got the timing right. Middlesex Branch is now very well-established, and I am confident that the other two are ready for the big step to self-sufficiency. The old London Branch had a splendid record, from long before the creation of London Region, of vigorous participation in IWA's campaigns and fund-raising. I am sure that the London Region and its three branches will maintain this record. My best wishes to them all.

Mike Stevens

FUTURE ISSUES

Publication Date	Copy date
No. 19 Summer 1995	7 April 1995
No. 20 Autumn 1995	15 July 1995
No. 21 Winter 1995	7 October 1995
No. 22 Spring 1996	16 December 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.

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

Anniversaries Galore

Canalway Cavalcade, 6-8 May 1995



This year's design for the Canalway Cavalcade plaque and T-shirt

A NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY

This year the Bank Holiday at the beginning of May has been moved a week later than usual to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of VE Day, so Canalway Cavalcade (the thirteenth) will take place on that weekend and will join the national festivities. The boaters' plaque (above) represents a boat-woman turning her back on the searchlights of war and her face towards the dove of peace. This design will also be available on a T-shirt, for which an order-form is enclosed with this issue.

AND SOME WATERWAYS ONES

We shall also celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Enabling Act for the Paddington Branch of the Grand Junction Canal, which was passed in April 1795. At that time the main line of the GJC from Braunston to Brentford was still being built, having been authorised in 1793. The southern end had been opened from Brentford to Uxbridge in 1794 and work was continuing northwards from there. The new branch, bringing waterborne traffic to Paddington, then on the very edge of London

itself, was completed by 1801. In 1812 it was joined by the Regent's Canal at what we now know as Little Venice, where Canalway Cavalcade takes place. By 1930, the GJC, the Regent's and a number of other canal companies had merged to form the Grand Union.

In addition to these two anniversaries, which will form the major themes of the event, 1995 marks the 10th anniversary of the Community Boats Association and the 25th of the Waterway Recovery Group. We are discussing with CBA how to mark their anniversary. London WRG are regular entrants in the pageant of decorated boats and last year won the award for the best decoration of a boat by a group. So it would not surprise anyone if their entry this year marked WRG's Silver Jubilee.

GOLDEN JUBILEE 1996

Next year we will have another very important anniversary to celebrate, with IWA's own Golden Jubilee. We hope to extend the activities of Canalway Cavalcade to mark this.

SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

Canalway Cavalcade 1995 will feature all the usual events our 'regulars' enjoy. The opening ceremony will take place on Saturday afternoon, followed by the pageant of decorated boats. Privately-entered boats will compete for the Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy, commercially sponsored boats for the London Underground Challenge Trophy and charity and community boats for the Ray Dunford Buckby Can. Sunday evening will see the procession of illuminated boats competing for the Cruise Electric Trophy. The boat-handling competition for the Westminster Trophy will take place at various times spread over Sunday and Monday. The Vic Trott memorial trophy will be awarded for the best traditional 'Boaters' Sunday Best' costumes.

Ashore there will be the usual lively Trade Show (bookings are coming even better than last year), and we plan a variety of musical and theatrical entertainments. There will be a number of activities for children, reaching their peak with the ever-popular Teddy Bears' Picnic on Sunday afternoon. There will also be private events for the boaters and traders in the evenings when the site is closed to the public.

COME AND ENJOY IT!

Lots of people always do: one year the police estimated that we had about 12,000 there on the Sunday (always the busiest day). There will be lots going on. There will certainly be many boats there: as I write we have already booked in more than enough to fill the pool, so we will easily maintain our reputation as the biggest waterways event apart from those with the 'National' label.

The longest journey to Cavalcade by boat for the last two years was made by Ray and Hazel Dunford's *Ellington*, from Runcorn; they are not sure whether they will make it this year, so it may be someone else's turn for that slot. Boaters tell us that they enjoy the event because there is more for them to do than at many other rallies. For many of them it provides a good get-together with old friends in the compact and friendly surroundings created by the ability to fit a lot of boats into fairly a small space.

WHEN AND WHERE?

The date is the Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday 6 to Monday 8 May). On all three days the site will be open to visitors from 10am to 6pm. For the illuminated boats on Sunday evening (starting at about 9pm, depending on

how soon it gets dark enough), we have to keep the towpath closed for safety reasons, but the pavements round the Pool are all some way above it and form excellent viewing platforms, especially in Warwick Crescent.

If you are coming to Little Venice by boat you can not miss it: at the junction of the GU Paddington Arm and the Regent's Canal. By public transport it is almost as easy; take the tube to Warwick Avenue (Bakerloo Line) and walk about 100 yards up the road of the same name, and you are there. Or there are a number of bus routes along Edgware Road; get off at Blomfield Road and follow the canal. By car, make for the corner of Warwick Avenue and Blomfield Road (although parking in the area is not easy; there are now more restricted areas than in previous years).

THE MONEY BIT

One purpose of the event, although far from the only one, is to raise money for waterways causes, mainly restoration schemes and waterway-based community groups. The profits are passed to IWA London Region for distribution to these. As reported in the last *Excalibur*, we are keen to boost our donations to these causes by interesting more firms in using Cavalcade to publicise themselves. This could involve advertising space in the brochure, sponsorship of boats in the procession, banners around the site or specific sponsorship of individual entertainments or facilities for the event. If you run, or work for, a firm that might be interested please contact Richard Bird or Ian Ferguson at the phone numbers below.

CONTACTS

Boat Entries:

Ann Hancox—0181 542 8998

Trade/Business Promotion:

Richard Bird—0181 857 6367

Ian Ferguson—0836 369932

Canalway Cavalcade Director:

Libby Bradshaw—0181 874 2787

Press/Media:

Mike Stevens—0181 674 9387

During the event 0850 665102

Public information during the event

(Recorded message)—0181 533 5128

From the Region Chairman—Mike Stimpson

The *Excalibur* team works very hard to produce this magazine. It is entirely voluntary and the team deserves our heartfelt thanks. I mention this not only because it is due, but also to lead into the fact that the 'lead time' for copy is very much longer than for a professionally-produced magazine, and I am conscious that meetings will make decisions between me writing the Region Chairman's 'bit' and members reading it. Therefore I am always somewhat nervous of exactly what to say even if I can at times predict the outcome of a meeting based on previous discussions!

The Region Events Committee, for example, is working hard on the Ghent Festival project and by the time *Excalibur* is produced the full details will be known. To my mind longer notice would have been preferable, and the event could have been a feature of the Jubilee Year, of which more later. I would like to congratulate the team for picking up the ball at such short notice. From the information before me the Ghent trip will take place in 1995 and will be a most exciting venture. (For more details, see page 8.)

On our various committees, we have a body of volunteers running the Association in the London Region, both for your benefit and, more importantly, for the future of our waterways. They do not only organise social meetings, although this is done with skill. I am sorry that so few members attend the six regular monthly meetings in the London Region. Unless you live in the south-west part of the region, you will probably be within 15-20 minutes drive from a social meeting, and probably at the most 30-40 minutes by public transport. If you are not a regular at social meetings then I would ask you to give them a try—you never know, you might enjoy yourself.

The main work of IWA, however, is often hidden from the members, as your committees get on quietly with such things as liaison with the Navigation Authorities, Local Councils, other user groups and, more importantly, groups who may not be quite so enlightened about the needs of waterways.

One thing that will be discussed at an extra meeting of Council in February will be the future of the Association. A small minority of members appears to feel that the Association has lost its way! I have been involved in the Association for the last twenty years and believe that IWA has one very big problem—it is listening to these people! IWA has certainly not lost its way, and there is as much need for it now as 49 years ago;

in some areas more so. We need an occasional touch on the tiller but certainly not a change of course. *'There would not be a canal today if it were not for the IWA!'* This we can claim, but perhaps not too loudly because people are only interested in why the IWA exists today, and the future of the canals would be uncertain without it.

We should not close our eyes to other user groups, those for specific interests nationally or for local interests. I put this idea to two organisations of which I am a member—IWA and NABO—resulting in regular high-level meetings (which I was honoured to be asked to Chair) between the two organisations. They have resulted in a wider grouping of all the national user groups interested in inland navigation. By the time you read this, the first meeting will have been held and a future for consultation between the groups established. I am pleased to say that our own Region Planning and Navigation Sub-committee has for some time been presenting a united front with other user groups and local societies in our area. Clearly IWA should liaise nationally with the national specific-interest groups, and on a Region or Branch basis with local societies. I would like to thank Ron and his team for leading the way in this respect. Although I suspect other regions and branches have followed their example, I am proud to say that our region has led the way.

I will not dwell on the subject of the further Region split or the need for additional people to assist on all our committees; Mike Stevens has dealt with that on page 3. I will no longer be your Region Chairman from the Region Committee following the AGM, due to my election to Council in my own right. I wish the three new Branches every success and will keep a keen interest in them all. I have attended as many social meetings as my other IWA duties, personal and business life allow, and will continue on your Region Committee.

Finally I hope all of you are gearing yourselves up to an exciting year for the Association in 1996. It is essential for the future of the Association that we market the role of IWA correctly, and the fact that we are now recruiting members at an amazing rate must be indicative of the fact that the Association has a viable future. I see the Jubilee celebrations for 1996 as a birthday to celebrate the start of the next fifty years as well as to mark the first. I hope you will support all of the events that are within your reach.

London Region Spring Draw '95

Over the last three years London Branch have run a New Year Draw. The Draws have been successful, raising during this period in excess of £3,500.00. The IWA London Region has now taken over the running of the Draw and intends to follow the same formula for 1995 with the exception that it will be called the Spring Draw and the winning tickets will be drawn on the final day of the 1995 Canalway Cavalcade. As in the past the aim of the Draw is to raise funds to run our basic Region activities: room hire for committee and social meetings; expenses in monitoring planning applications and making representations to various authorities; producing and mailing Excalibur and generally safeguarding the waterways of our Region. We enclose two books of five 50p draw tickets with this issue of Excalibur and hope that you will support our efforts.

As can be seen from the list that follows we have a splendid selection of prizes. The first prize being a one week holiday for four abroad a luxury hireboat for which we are

very grateful to Mike and Lindy Foster of Bridgewater Boats. The holiday can be taken at a time suitable to the winner this Autumn.

Thanks are also due to those other companies and organisations who have helped us by donating the other Draw prizes: Gift Voucher for £75.00 (Uxbridge Boat Centre); Gift Voucher for £75.00, (High Line Yachting Ltd); Portable black and white television; Framed Knot Board, (Viking Knot Displays); Annual Subscription to Waterways World, (Waterway Productions Ltd); Annual Subscription to 'Canal & Riverboat', (A.E. Morgan Publications Ltd); 'Canal Walks of England & Wales' by Ray Quinlan; IWA Travel Bag, (IWA Sales Ltd).

We hope that you will support London Region by entering the Draw yourself, and if possible selling tickets to your friends or colleagues. More books of Draw Tickets are available from Richard Bird, 23 Porcupine Close, Nottingham, London SE9 3AE (Telephone 0181 857 6367) or any other London Region committee member.

Bridgewater Boats

The holiday boat charter company that cares for canals is pleased to offer the 1st prize in the IWA London Region Spring Draw '95.

The winner will be able to chug through the Chilterns on one of our colourful canal boats named after the famous T.S. Elliott cats.

CASTLE WHARF, BERKHAMSTED, HERTS.
Tel: 01442 863615 Fax: 01442 863619



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On the Metreau

News and Gossip of London's Waterways

GOOD NEWS TO GHENT

London IWA and British Waterways are working together to bring you something special: nothing less than the opportunity to take yourself, family, friends and narrowboat on a tour of the Flemish canals in late May/early June.

Up to 50 narrowboats and their crews will be the guests of the cities of Ghent, Bruges, Ostend, Deinze, Kortrijk and Oodernade and the provincial governments of East and West Flanders on a round of local hospitality with fireworks and civic receptions. All these hosts are helping to sponsor the event, as is the Belgian chemical firm Solvei. The finale of the visit will be when the flotilla is the centrepiece of the Ghent Waterway Festival on the weekend of 3-4 June.

The trip will demonstrate the attractions of using Belgium's waterways for leisure and will also promote boating holidays in Britain.

It will start at Canalway Cavalcade, when a team of Belgian para-commandos will bring a 33-ft long boat built entirely of Solvei's plastic bottles. The para-commandos will escort the English boats to Belgium and accompany them on the trip. The following weekend, the flotilla will assemble at Limehouse basin. That week they will be craned onto low-loaders and taken to Ramsgate for the ferry to Ostend where they will resume their natural element.

If you are interested and want an application form, send a stamped addressed A5 envelope to:
London Region Events Team,
c/o 109 Chester Road,
Watford, WD1 7DJ

NEW REGION VICE-PRESIDENT...

Those of you who study the address-list on page 2 will have noticed a 100% increase in the number of Region Vice-Presidents. Arthur Farrand-Radley is a former London Branch Chairman who for many years has organised our lecturers who visit non-IWA organisations to speak about waterways. For a number of years he has been London Branch Vice-President. With the final division of the old London Branch, it was time for Farrand's long and distinguished service to be recognised at Region level, and the Region Committee was happy to accept a recommendation from London Branch Committee that Farrand should become a Region Vice-President.

... AND SECRETARY

The same readers will have spotted that Alison Struckett has agreed to become Region Secretary (as well as Middlesex Branch Secretary).

CREW EXCHANGE

The item in our last issue produced a handful of responses, both from members who would be interested in joining a crew from time to time, and from boaters who are interested in offering them places. Alison Struckett (again!) has offered to act as the central contact. I have passed to her the names of everyone who has contacted me. If anyone else would like to join the scheme, please contact Alison directly. Her address and telephone number are on page 2.

NEW RIVER MAINTENANCE TEAM AT BOW

On 7 December, your Editor was a guest at a reception in the House Mill to mark the launch of the new River Maintenance Team for the Bow Back Rivers and southern part of the Lee Navigation. This has been set up in partnership by British Waterways, the Borough of Newham, City Challenge and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. The project offers work experience for up to sixth months to local people who have been unemployed for over a year. Places will be offered to 24 people during the year, allowing them to gain on-the-job training and to make a positive contribution to the environment. Their task will be clearing rubbish and debris from ten miles of the Bow Back Rivers and Lee Navigation and maintenance and safety works on adjacent tow-paths. (See picture on page 11)

SMART-CARDS AFLOAT

Visitors to the Earls Court Boat Show discovered that BW and the NRA are jointly introducing a smart-card system of payment for boater-operated pump-out units, electricity hook-ups and charging points. Cards will come in units of £2, £5 and £10 and will operate just like telephone cards. The system is to be piloted NRA Thames Region and BW NE Region.

STAMP BANK: CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The IWA/WRG Stamp Bank has come under new management. Those of you who would like your trading stamps, petrol-station vouchers, used postage stamps etc to be turned into cash for waterway restoration should send them to:

IWA/WRG Stamp Bank,
24a Avenue Road, Witham, Essex, CM8 2DT

BOAT HANDLING COURSES

Where do new boaters learn 'how to do it'? Many start off as hirers, but the instruction given by hire fleets is inevitably very limited. So I was most interested when one of our members came up to me at a social meeting with glowing reports of a company offering narrowboat handling courses. They are:

J & G Jones
Falls Bridge House
Harborough Magna
Rugby
Warwicks, CV23 0HA
Telephone/fax 01788 576440

Training is given on a 70ft steel narrowboat with a vintage Lister JP2 engine. A day's course costs £60 and is offered at varying levels from 'for the complete beginner' to 'handle a 70ft boat single-handed'.

STILL ON THE BOW BACK RIVERS

Last year IWA London Branch agreed to donate some money to the East London Rivers Initiative for improvements to the Bow Back Rivers. The particular improvement decided was a picnic table and litter-bin to be sited beside the Pudding Mill River by Marshgate Lane. It is to be unveiled by Branch Chairman Mike Stevens at 12.30pm on Thursday 16 March.

200 CLUB WINNERS

OCTOBER 1994

1st	no.210	T P O'Hare	Heathfield
2nd	no.146	W Manning	Sunbury
3rd	no.188	Eric Garland	Erith
4th	no. 46	Dorothy Robbie	London SE9

DECEMBER 1994

1st	no. 58	Rosie Limming	Uxbridge
2nd	no. 53	Ben Scott	London SW16
3rd	no.255	John Raven	Bexleyheath
4th		Mrs R Thompson	Marlborough

A FISHY BUSINESS!

Did you spot BW's Stoppage Notice 2/95, closing the Hanwell flight of locks from 9 January to 10 February 'for environmental reasons'? Ron Bingham, Chairman of our Planning and Navigation Committee did, and asked what the environmental reasons were. He was told there were a lot of fish in one of the pounds and BW did not want to disturb them. Aaah! Ron asked further. Why were there suddenly so many fish there? Because BW had put them there. Apparently they were displaced, for some reason, from the Welsh Harp Reservoir and BW were storing them in the Hanwell flight. So much for navigation! The stoppage notice did invite boaters needing the flight 'in an emergency' to contact the waterway office. I wonder how serious the emergency would have to be for BW to agree to disturb the fish?

DEATH OF A SALESMAN LEN HOUSE

Len died on 6 December 1993 at Homerton Hospital. His family, on whom we were relying for news, failed, unfortunately, to let us know and we only found out when we wanted to send him our 1994 Christmas greetings. Only a year before his death, when he was already over 80, he had crowned a long period of service to the Association by being declared the 1992 recipient of the Edie Palmer Award. This prestigious honour is granted for 'exceptional and dedicated administrative service to the Association', and for more than twenty years in the London Branch Len was all of this and much more.

He was a man of character, as befits one who joined the Royal Navy in the last War and made it up to Chief Petty Officer. But he was always prepared to play a quiet rôle so long as he could help and it kept him going. For most of his post-war life he contented himself with a modest job as what the Americans call a salesman and we a commercial traveller—for kids' clothing. He just liked talking to people.

And to give himself a break, he was the official DIY man for the London Branch. It was he who got the place ready for the monthly gatherings and collected contributions at their end to pay for them, from attenders who varied in their willingness. He lugged our large screen round in his van and often carried it up and down all those stairs by himself when everyone assumed it had been done. And he sold more programmes than anyone else at the Nationals when they were held in the London area, and at Little Venice for Canalway Cavalcades, standing there for hours on end, chatting people up and encouraging them to support both the Waterways and the Association.

He was also an excellent Committee man, turning his enthusiasm and experience to full account on the Planning/Navigation Subcommittee, and above all in arranging the Branch social gatherings programme, much of which was his own idea. I had no hesitation in making him Vice-Chairman when I ran the Branch, and his wisdom there shone like a beacon.

It was natural for me to suggest him for the Edie Palmer award later when he felt he had to pull out of active service, and it was a great moment for me, too, when I was asked to congratulate him on the Branch's behalf at its meeting in September 1992.

Len was unique: he was Len, and we have all suffered a huge loss.

Arthur Farrand Radley

Reminder of Region and Branch AGMs

Members are reminded that, as announced in our last issue, the Annual General Meetings of the London Region, Middlesex Branch, the new North East London Branch and the re-named South London Branch will be on the dates and places shown below:

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

**Tuesday 14 March 1995 at 8 pm
at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge.**

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH

(Formerly London Branch)

**Thursday 16 March 1995 at 7.30 pm
at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU.**

NORTH EAST LONDON BRANCH

(Formerly N.E. London Section)

**Tuesday 21 March 1995 at 8.00 pm
on the boat *Hazelmere*,
outside Hazelmere Marina, High Bridge Street, Waltham Abbey.**

LONDON REGION

**Thursday 20 April 1995 at 7.30 pm
at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU.**

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

Reader's Letter

Dear Mike,

BETTER DEAL FOR FISHERMEN

As a keen cruising boater, I am always keen not to spoil others' leisure. I believe in the Aickman concept of the multifunctional use of the waterways and am keen to find ways to improve facilities for all users.

It has occurred to me that boaters would like to understand more fully the needs of fishermen, especially when they have matches. One way that both could avoid spoiling each other's fun would be for matches to be better publicised in the waterways press. Also on the day the fishermen or their organisers could sign the match with a clear indication of the course and route boaters should take, e.g. 'centre of canal—normal speed' or 'keep left—slow speed'.

I am sure boaters would oblige. In that way all would know what was needed to avoid spoiling others' fun.

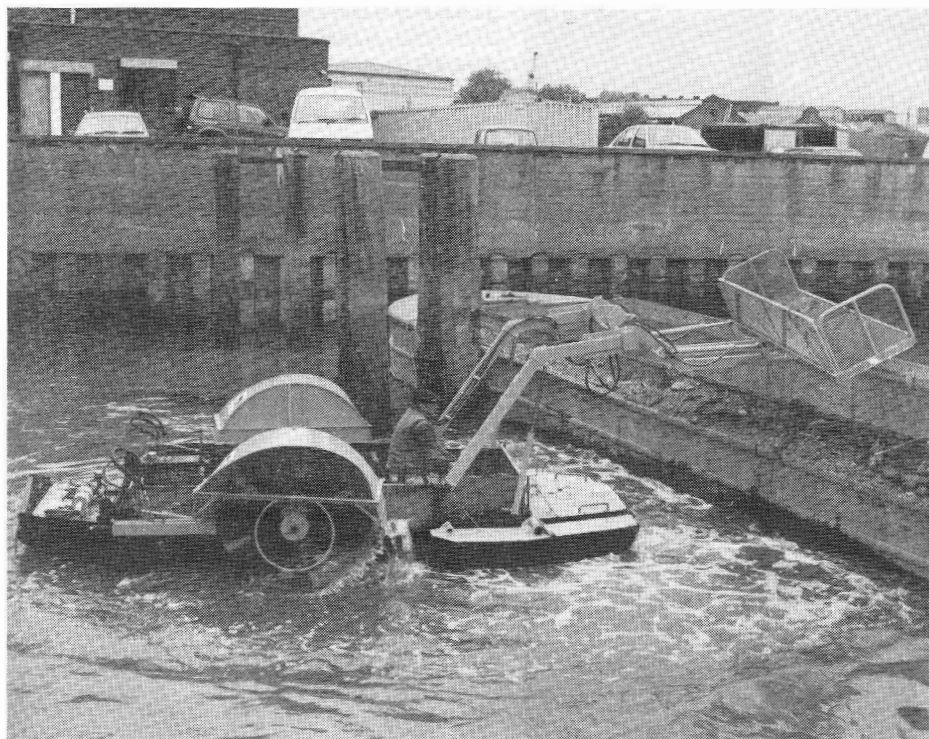
Perhaps fisherman amongst your readers would like to indicate if this is feasible—or even try out the idea at their next match?

Yours sincerely,

Roger Squires
Rotherhithe

Editor's Note:

At our Islington Social on 7 March, and again at our Croydon Social on 19 April, we plan discussion meetings whose aims are to look for solutions like this to the potential conflicts between different kinds of user. We hope that anglers, walkers, cyclists and boaters will all be represented at these meetings. Details on pages 13-15.



*Work in progress by the new River Maintenance Team at Bow
(See story on pages 8 and 9)*

**Welcome home
- to the
moorings
you've always
wanted**

Available

Friendly

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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.

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

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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 Venue and Contacts for further information

FEBRUARY 1995

- Sunday 19th: 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE NEW RIVER: Highbury to Islington. Meet at Highbury and Islington tube station.
- Tuesday 21st: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON SECTION (WALTHAM ABBEY).**
Garth Allen: *Canal Art.*
- Friday 24th: 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON (MOTTINGHAM).**
Paddy Walker: *Trip boats on the Regent's Canal.*
- Tuesday 28th: 7.30 for 8pm **IWA KENT AND EAST SUSSEX BRANCH:** Members' slides evening.

MARCH

- Weekend 4th/5th **LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP DIG** on the Wey and Arun Canal.
- Sunday 5th: 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: PADDINGTON TO CAMDEN. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station.
- Tuesday 7th: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON SECTION (ISLINGTON).**
Anglers, boaters and walkers: the great debate.
- Thursday 9th: 8pm **IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH:**
Branch AGM followed by Paul Strudwick: *The Middle Level.*
- Tuesday 14th: 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** Branch AGM followed by West Drayton Local History Society: *The Grand Junction Canal in Middlesex.*
- Wednesday 15th: 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON (CROYDON).**
George and Audrey Aldridge: *Knot-tying demonstration.*
- Thursday 16th: 12.30pm **IWA LONDON BRANCH/EAST LONDON RIVERS INITIATIVE** Unveiling of picnic table etc by Pudding Mill River (Off Marshgate Lane).
- Thursday 16th: 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION (CENTRAL LONDON).**
South London Branch AGM followed by Miranda Jaggars: *The Community Boats Association.*
- Thursday 16th: 8pm **IWA CHILTERN BRANCH:** Branch AGM followed by a speaker from BW: *Recreation and Conservation*
- Sunday 19th: 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 21st: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON BRANCH (WALTHAM ABBEY).**
Section AGM followed by a speaker from the NRA.
- Friday 24th: 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).**
Speaker to be arranged.
- Weekend 25th/26th **LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP DIG:** venue to be arranged (IWA Canal Clean-up weekend).
- Tuesday 28th: 7 for 7.30pm **IWA KENT/EAST SUSSEX BRANCH:** Branch/SE Region AGMs followed by a slide quiz.

APRIL

- Sunday 2nd: 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 4th: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).** Mike Stevens: *Waterways towards London.*
- Tuesday 11th: 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** Colne Valley Groundwork Trust.
- Thursday 13th: 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH. Doug Beard: *Chelmsford Basin—the final story.*
- Sunday 16th: 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.
- Tuesday 18th: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON BRANCH (WALTHAM ABBEY).** Tim Lewis: *Canal restoration.*
- Wednesday 19th: 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (CROYDON).** Anglers, boaters and walkers: *the great debate.*
- Thursday 20th: 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION (CENTRAL LONDON).** Region AGM followed by Iltyd Harrington: *Waterways reminiscences.*
- Thursday 20th: 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH: Richard Attwood: *Cotswold Canals restoration.*
- Weekend 22nd/23rd LONDON WRG DIG: Venue to be arranged
- Friday 28th: 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).** Doug Beard: *The Chelmsford restoration.*

MAY

- Tuesday 2nd: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).** Speaker from the London Wildlife Trust (Subject to confirmation).
- SATURDAY 6TH—MONDAY 8TH**
- IWA LONDON REGION: CANALWAY CAVALCADE AT LITTLE VENICE**
For details see pages 4/5.
- Sunday 7th: 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: CAMDEN TO PADDINGTON. Meet at Camden Town tube station. (Finishes at Canalway Cavalcade).
- Tuesday 9th: 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** Peter Coyne (BW Regional Manager): *The future of Britain's Waterways.*
- Thursday 11th May: 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH: Garth Allen: *Waterway painting.*
- Tuesday 16th: 8pm **IWA N.E. LONDON BRANCH (WALTHAM ABBEY).** Barbecue by Waltham Town Lock.
- Wednesday 17th: 8pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (CROYDON).** Speaker from the NRA.
- Thursday 18th: 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION (CENTRAL LONDON).** Speaker from the Towpath Action Group (subject to confirmation).
- Sunday 21st: 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS:** GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: CAMDEN TO ISLINGTON. Meet at Camden Town tube station.

Wednesday 24th: 6.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL: MILE END TO LIMEHOUSE.**
Meet at Mile End tube station.

Bank Holiday weekend 27-29 May
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP DIG:
Venue to be arranged

Bank Holiday weekend 27-29 May
WENDOVER ARM FESTIVAL

Venue details and contact people

MEETING	VENUE	CONTACT
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	Abbey Community Centre, Great Smith Street, SW1. (Nearest tube Westminster or St James' Park)	Tim Lewis 0181 367 6227
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	Hillingdon Canal Club, rear of 32A Waterloo Road, Uxbridge	Alison Struckett 01753 652680
IWA N.E. LONDON BRANCH		
(ISLINGTON)	'The George' Liverpool Road, N1. (corner of Tolpuddle St., nearest tube Angel)	Alan Russell 0181 529 0689
(WALTHAM ABBEY)	On the boat Hazelmere, outside Hazelmere Marina, High Bridge St, Waltham Abbey Nearest BR, Waltham Cross.	Alan Russell 0181 529 0689
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH		
(CROYDON)	Unitarian Church Hall, The Flyover, Croydon. Nearest BR, East Croydon	Mike Stevens 0181 674 9387
(MOTTINGHAM)	'The Royal Tavern', Mottingham (corner of Court Rd/Sidcup Rd, 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 554492
IWA KENT/EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	The Fountain Inn, Tonbridge Rd, Barming, Maidstone.	Angela Madle 01634 722661
IWA CHILTERN BRANCH	The Market Hall, Old Amersham, (opposite the Crown Hotel)	Roger Leishman 01442 874536
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP	Various venues. Meeting point usually Waterloo Station 7pm Friday to travel to site.	Tim Lewis 0181 367 6227

Late News

DIARY UPDATE

Some items that came in after the *Waterway Events* page went to press :

Thursday 16 March, 8pm **IWA Chiltern Branch**
AGM at the Market Hall, Old Amersham.
Followed by a talk by Carol Hauk of BW on their recreation & conservation activities. Contact : Roger Leishman, 01442-874536.

Thursday 20 April, 8pm **IWA Chiltern Branch**
meeting : Richard Attwood on *The Cotswold Canals restoration programme*. Details as above.

Weekend 20/21 May **Rickmansworth Festival**,
celebrating 90 years of boatbuilding in
Rickmansworth. Contact : Ken Allen, 01494-483566.

The contacts for the **Wendover Arm Festival** were accidentally missed off the events page. They are as follows :

Boat entries	Barry Martin	01908-312239
Other matters	Roger Lewis	01442-823378

The speaker for the South London Branch meeting at **Mottingham on 24 March** will be Mike Stevens talking about the B.C.N.

CANAL CLEAN-UP

London IWA's contribution to this national event will consist of clearing rubbish from both sides of a stretch of the Grand Union at Hayes, from bridge 198 (Dawley Road) to bridge 200 (Hayes Town Bridge), on Sunday 26 March. BW are co-operating by providing boats to take away the rubbish collected. A team from Middlesex Branch and London WRG has already been recruited and other volunteers would be welcome to join in (over-17s only, please, for insurance reasons). Come to bridge 199 (Printing House Lane, near the *Blue Anchor* pub) any time from 10am. Hayes and Harlington station is nearby. For further information please contact Bill Bannon, Alison Struckett or Mike Stimpson ('phone numbers on page 2).

IWA's JUBILEE, 1996

We are collecting suggestions for activities to mark IWA's Golden Jubilee next year. The anniversary of IWA's first open meeting is the Saturday after Cavalcade, so we hope to link the two with a series of events (as mentioned elsewhere in this issue). This is as yet at a very early stage of planning. We have lots of other ideas in mind, including another Rally in July organised by the Middlesex Branch, a determination to organise cruises on every possible piece of navigable water in the Region, and possibly even a rally of model boats on the Croydon Canal. A lot of ideas are still at the "feasibility study" stage and may or may not prove possible. If you have any extra suggestions, please contact any member of your Branch or Region Committee.

LONDON CANAL MUSEUM

Open evenings for teachers and other group leaders will be held at the museum on Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 March from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Admission will be free and light refreshments will be available. Museum staff will be on hand to discuss what the museum has to offer. There is an education room. Worksheets are available and other activities and workshops are being planned. Visitors will be able to look over the community narrowboat *Tarporley*, which is now moored at the Museum. Anyone wishing to come to an open evening should ring the museum on 0171-713 0836 and give their name, the name of their school or other organisation and the date on which they wish to attend. The museum is at 12-13 New Wharf Road, King's Cross, London N1 9RT. By water it is on the side of Battlebridge Basin on the Regent's Canal.

THAMES EVENTS

Recent Notices to Mariners have told of a number of coming events which may be of interest to our readers, but which will restrict navigation on the Thames on certain days :-

Saturday 11 March : River closed between Kew Bridge and Putney Bridge from 10:15 to 12:45 for the Women's Head of the River Race.

Monday 13 March : River closed between Chiswick Bridge and Putney Bridge from 13:15 to 15:30 for the Schools' Head of the River Race.

Saturday 25 March : River closed between Kew Bridge and Putney Bridge from 09:15 to 12:15 for the Eights Head of the River Race.

Saturday 1 April : River closed between Fulham Railway Bridge and Chiswick Bridge from 12:45 for the Universities Boat Race.

Saturday 8 April : River closed between Kew Bridge and Putney Bridge from 09:00 to 12:00 for the Scullers' Head of the River Race.

Sunday 27 May : Desborough Channel closed all day for a canoe regatta. The Old River will remain open.

SMALLSWORD WRITERS WANTED

Have you ever wanted to write for children? If so, Ian Ferguson would be delighted if you wrote something for *Smallsword*: articles, quizzes, puzzles, cartoons, line-drawings, whatever you can offer. If you've got an idea just waiting for you to put pen to paper (or typing finger to word-processor), please send it directly to Ian. If you aren't that far along the road, why not give him a ring to discuss what might be suitable? Ian's address and 'phone number are in *Smallsword*, and his 'phone number also on page 2.