

Excalibur

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

NUMBER 19, SUMMER 1995

Editor: Mike Stevens, 333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS
Phone 0181-674 9387 Fax 0181-674 3724 Mobile 0850 665102



*All aboard! Narrowboat Dace about to leave Limehouse by road
for the Narrows Flotilla trip to Belgium. See story on page 10*

Photo: Tim Lewis

WHO'S WHO IN LONDON IWA

* = answerphone

LONDON REGION

PRESIDENT

Illtyd Harrington, JP, DL

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti — 0181 882 1337

Towpath walks organiser

Arthur Farrand Radley, MBE — 0171 603 6062

Lecturers panel organiser

CHAIRMAN

Mike Stimpson — 01923 770425

6 Norfolk Rd, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1QE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Ian Ferguson — Mobile 0836 369923

Fax 0181 533 5128

SECRETARY

Alison Struckett — Home 0181 691 7215

Work 0171 486 8484

54 Hyde Vale, Greenwich, London SE10 8HP

TREASURER AND EVENTS DIRECTOR

Libby Bradshaw — 0181 874 2787*

Ground Floor Flat, 61 West Side

Wandsworth Common, SW18 2ED

TREASURER—elect

Vernon Draper — 0181 668 5522

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Bannon — 01753 650938

(Middlesex Branch Chairman)

Ron Bingham — 0181 855 3693

(Chairman of Planning and Navigation Committee)

Eric Garland — 01322 342296

(S London Branch Chairman)

Alan Russell — 0181 529 0689

(N & E London Section Convenor)

Mike Stevens — 0181 674 9387*

(Excalibur Editor)

OFFICIALS NOT ON THE BRANCH COMMITTEE

Lewis Phillips — 0181 673 4412*

(London Ring Plaques distribution)

Tim Lewis — 0181 367 6227

(Social Secretary)

EXCALIBUR

EDITOR

Mike Stevens

333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS

Tel 0181 674 9387 Fax 0181 674 3724

Mobile 0850 665102

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Robin Bishop

11 Lichfield Road, Cricklewood

London NW2 2RE

Telephone 0181 452 2632 (evenings)

01276 63366, ext. 236 (work)

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

CHAIRMAN

Bill Bannon — 01753 650938

nb Aquinas, The Boatyard

Mansion Lane, Iver, Bucks SL0 9RG

SECRETARY

Alison Struckett — Home 0181 691 7215

Work 0171 486 8484

54 Hyde Vale, Greenwich, London SE10 8HP

TREASURER

Siobhan Selden — 0181 574 5624

20 Bulls Bridge Rd, Southall, Middx UB2 5LU

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vernon Draper — 0181 668 5522

Rosie Limming — 01895 252011* *(Publicity)*

Terry Marston — 0181 902 1150 *(Memberships)*

Bob McGowan — 0181 848 8384

NORTH AND EAST LONDON BRANCH

CHAIRMAN

Alan Russell — 0181 529 0689

97 Waverley Avenue, Chingford E4 8HS

SECRETARY

Marcia Davies — 0181 881 4688

169 Langham Road, London N15 3LP

TREASURER

Tim Lewis — 0181 367 6227*

6 Downs Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 1PA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Debbie Bevan — 0181 367 6227*

Lesley Cardy — 0181 804 9071 *(Memberships)*

Peter Cardy — 0181 804 9071

Richard Packer — (work) 0171 594 5936*

Cathy Russell — 0181 529 0689*

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH

CHAIRMAN

Eric Garland — 01322 342296

39 Valance Road, Erith, Kent DA8 3JT

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Libby Bradshaw — 0181 874 2787*

SECRETARY

Mike Stevens — 0181 674 9387*

333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS

TREASURER

Mary Llewellyn — 0181 653 4862*

5 Cornwall Gardens, Tennyson Rd, SE25 5RZ

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Llewellyn — 0181 653 4862*

Jim Mason — 0181 568 1967

Adrian Steinkamp — pager 01426 802260

*(Waterways for Youth contact
and Membership Recruitment Officer)*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (not on Committee)

Dorothy Robbie — 0181 857 6367

From the Editor

SORRY

Many apologies for the extreme delay in this issue, which was caused by pressure of work in the Editor's 'day job'. You will see below a list of revised copy dates for future issues resulting from this delay. Increasing pressure of work means I have to modify my time I give to IWA. The one area where I definitely want some help is with Canalway Cavalcade publicity. The event has grown so big now that its publicity can no longer be handled by one person with a full-time job elsewhere. So I need an assistant, ideally to be responsible within the Publicity Team for the Cavalcade Programme brochure. Any volunteers?

THERE'S A LOT OF IT ABOUT

Because of the delay we have been able to include in this issue not only the planned report on this year's Canalway Cavalcade, but also a report on the trip to Belgium we trailed last time. With these events and the Limehouse Festival all on one another's heels, the Region events Team has been extremely busy. Next year they and the three Branches look like being even busier as we fit in several extra events to mark IWA's Golden Jubilee. Mike Stimpson writes about this on page 6, and there is a summary of our plans to date on page 11.

REGION COMMITTEE: NOT MUCH CHANGE

At the first Region Committee after the AGM, there was some uncertainty regarding the Chairmanship, since Mike Stimpson had been elected to Council in his own right and there was no clear answer as to whether he could hold both seats. Since there was nobody else willing to stand at that stage, it was agreed that Mike should continue in office pending advice from the National Chairman about the constitutional position. By the next Committee meeting, that advice had been received, to the effect that there was no reason why Mike should not continue in both seats, although having only one vote. He therefore is still our Chairman.

The only other change was in the Region Treasurership, where Vernon Draper was elected to take over from Libby Bradshaw. The Committee has agreed that the hand-over should be phased over a period of time, not least because Vernon is very occupied with sorting out the 200 Club papers (see pages 8 and 9). So for the moment please continue to contact Libby on matters of Region finance.

CAVALCADE GATECRASHERS

As a member of Hillingdon Canal Club who also serves on the Canalway Cavalcade Committee, I was very pleased indeed to see Vernon Draper's latest editorial in the Club newsletter, where he criticised

those boaters, including several Club members, who bring their boats onto the visitor moorings for Canalway Cavalcade to enjoy the event without paying an entry fee. He reminds them that one purpose of the event is to raise money for waterway-related causes and urges them to change their habits in this respect. Thank you, Vernon.

AWAY FROM HOME

This is the time of year when Wendy and I have been week-ending *Felis Catus II* northwards, and have reached Stoke-on-Trent.

There we are using one of our ways of finding a safe mooring when week-ending. We keep a few little maintenance jobs in hand so that if we find ourselves in an area (most large towns) where we are not impressed with the safety of leaving the boat on the towpath, we can put it into a friendly boatyard for some work. Usually they charge us for the jobs but not for the week's or fortnight's mooring.

But we have also found some good towpath moorings that have proved perfectly trouble-free. The *Plum Pudding* at Armitage on the Trent and Mersey has a landlady who is herself a boater and so very helpful. Barlaston (also on the Trent and Mersey) and Froghall (on the Caldon) also proved trouble-free moorings, as did outside the *Crystal Palace* at Berkhamsted earlier in the year.

Once I have sent *Excalibur* to the printers, we will be afloat for the rest of the Summer, heading for the Leeds and Liverpool Canal to research and photograph a lecture I am planning for next year's 'circuit'. After that comes the National, when Martin Ludgate and I will again be looking after the daily news-sheet.

Mike Stevens

FUTURE ISSUES

Publication date	Copy date
No. 20 Autumn 1995	9 September 1995
No. 21 Winter 1996	8 December 1995
No. 22 Spring 1996	8 March 1996
No. 23 Summer 1996	7 June 1996

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

© IWA London Region 1995.

Published by the Region at 114 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UG. Telephone: 0171-586 2510/2556.

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

Sun and Fun but Thinner Crowds

Canalway Cavalcade 1995

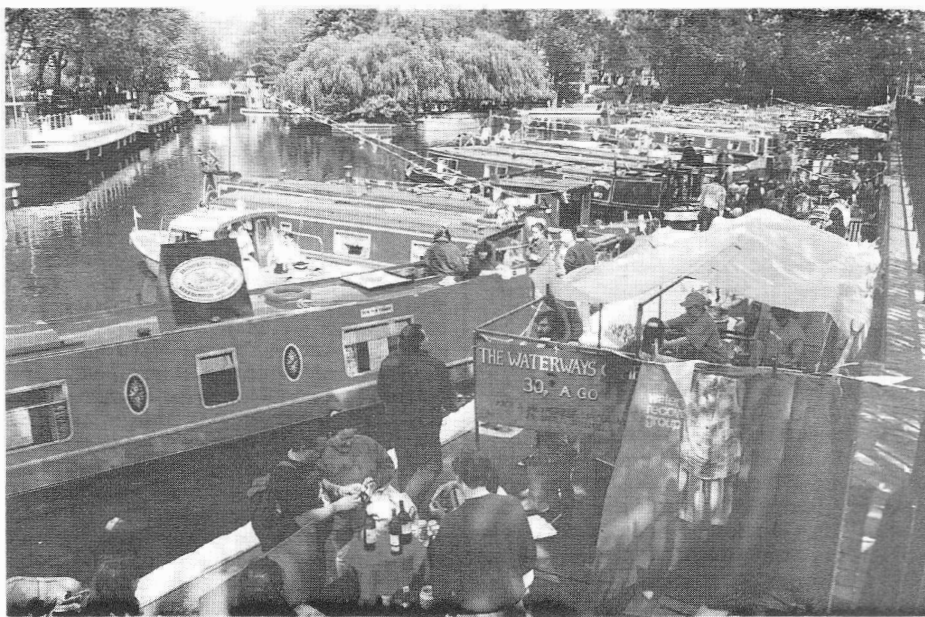


Photo: Tim Lewis

ANNIVERSARIES

As previewed in our last issue, Canalway Cavalcade 1995 celebrated a number of anniversaries. Two were featured as main themes of the event; the 50th anniversary of VE-Day and the 200th of the Enabling Act for the Paddington Branch. In addition we also commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Waterways Recovery Group and the 10th of the Community Boats Association. In contrast to all this nostalgia, the opening ceremony was performed by IWA's newly-elected National Chairman, Audrey Smith.

VE-DAY

Of these, VE-Day was by far the most visible at the event. Many boaters had decorated their vessels on that theme, and the rally plaque and T-shirt design (shown in our last issue) were based on it. Thanks for the design go to Brian Christiansen. But it did mean that we were in competition with the national celebrations in Hyde Park the same weekend, which meant that our attendance figures from the general public were smaller than usual. However this did not spoil the fun, even for our splendid

array of traders who gave us very positive comments. And those of us still around on Monday evening were able to enjoy the Hyde Park fireworks from afar.

LOTS OF BOATS . . .

But we were not short of boats; it seems that some boaters had brought their boats to be at Cavalcade and visit Hyde Park from there. Our boat numbers were also swelled by some boats that might not have been there had they not been on their way to Limehouse to be craned out for the trip to Belgium (see report on page 10). This meant that the boaters felt even more central to the event than usual: several commented to me that it was the best Cavalcade for years.

. . . AND LOTS OF FUN

The weather was kind to us. Glorious sunshine was up to last year's standard; almost too good for those of us who were working at the event. The entertainments were very well-received and included Steve Strickland's Jazz Band, the Fulham Brass Band, various folk musicians and dancers and our good friends

the Daystar Theatre Group with their new show *The Straight and Narrow* and a special VE-day related show. Saturday evening saw a boaters' Ceilidh and Sunday evening the usual excellent boaters' barbecue organised for us by St Pancras Cruising Club. The Teddy Bears' picnic was the climax to a programme of children's activities in the capable hands, as ever, of the Church Army group. Meanwhile Gardens Association provided their usual impressive and entertaining canoe displays. A new venture this year was John Morin's showings of archive films.

PRIZES AND PROCESSIONS

This year we did not offer a separate programme prize, but instead timed the Region Annual Draw to take place at Cavalcade. The results can be found on page 8.

The two processions, of decorated boats on Saturday afternoon and of illuminated boats on Sunday evening, were well supported and of a high standard. A full list of prize-winners is below, and includes a number of previous winners, including *Betty G* for the Marcus Boudier Trophy which they previously won in 1992. The London Waterway Recovery group retained the Buckby Can donated by Ray Dunford for the best boat decoration by a group, which they won on its first appearance last year.

Of those placed in the boat-handling competition, Phil Bittner had his third victory, closely followed by last year's winner Jenny Chalke and a Cavalcade first-timer, Chris Barber. We were pleased to see a number of youngsters competing in this event. Phil Bittner may have been our youngest winner a few years ago, but his record as the youngest competitor has certainly been shattered now. It is interesting that for the second year running all three placed in the boat-handling were on ex-working boats. This led to speculation among some boaters as why it might be. Does the course favour full-length boats? Or do the judges over-compensate for their perception of the problems of getting big boats round tight corners, especially using a traditional speed-wheel to control the engine? Or do the steerers of such boats get a lot more practice than most other people?.

PRIZEWINNERS

The Marcus Boudier Memorial Trophy for the Best Privately Entered Decorated Boat
Winners: Alec and Betty Gosling on nb *Betty G*.
Runners-up: David and Claire Streeter on cruiser *The First Lady*.

Eric and Sally Naylor on nb *Cherié*.

Bob Bush on nb *Forester*.

Best Decoration of a Boat by a Community Group or Society

Winners: London Waterway Recovery Group on nb *Ben*.

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

The Cruise Electric Trophy for the Best Illuminated Boat

Winners: Keith Waller on Cara-Cruiser *Starship*.

Runners-up: Pat Perry-Barton on nb *Quercus*.

Brian and Marty Seymour on nb *Mathetes*.

The Vic Trott Memorial Award for 'Boaters' Sunday Best' Costumes

Winners: Lesley Matthews

The Westminster Trophy for Boat-Handling

1st Phil Bittner on nb *Barnbam*

Joint 2nd Chris Barber on nb *Sun*

Jenny Chalke on nb *Vulcan*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Proceeds from Canalway Cavalcade go to waterways restoration and waterway-related community groups. One again we were shorter of sponsorship than we should have liked, but we thank the London Docklands Development Corporation for their financial help. 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, Playlight Hire for all sorts of help with things electrical, Zenith Media for parking space for our traders, *The Old Father Thames* and *Robert Browning* pubs for hosting our committee meetings (what does that tell you about the Committee?), Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group for providing our site crew, North Westminster Community School for providing the site-crew accommodation, Laburnum Boat Club for the use of their boat *Opportunity*, Alan Cheal who donated his time in type-setting the programme booklet. We also thank 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, 4-6 May, and will celebrate IWA's Golden Jubilee. You will find more Jubilee information on pages 8 and 9.

Mike Stevens

From the Region Chairman

This edition of *Excalibur* will hit your doormat just before the start of our Jubilee 'year', which will be launched at the National Waterways Festival at Chester and run through to the end of 1996. You are already aware of the event, but you may not realise the full extent of the celebrations.

IWA Council has asked that each Branch should hold at least one Jubilee event during the year and that each Region hold at least one major event.

In addition to this, many canal societies, cruising clubs and other groups are showing their support for the Association by holding events under the Jubilee banner. In our Region, St Pancras Cruising Club, Hillingdon Canal Club and others will be joining in the Jubilee.

As a direct result of all this, there will be events all over the country which promote the Association and the work it has done and the work it continues to do.

I am often asked 'What is the IWA doing today?' To a member of Council this is a strange question and tells us one thing: that we do not blow our own trumpet enough. During Jubilee year we shall be blowing our own trumpet, and others will be blowing it for us as well.

The Aims of the Jubilee year are threefold:

- ★ To increase public awareness of the Association and increase membership as a result.
- ★ To raise funds to replace reserves spent on the Derwent case so that we can continue to be a potent giant if such a situation occurs again.
- ★ To celebrate 50 years of achievement whilst demonstrating that we are still needed as much today as we were in 1946

I hope you will join us in these celebrations and come to some of the special events the Region and its Branches are planning for you.

Mike Stimpson

SEE PAGE 11 FOR THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR PLANS FOR JUBILEE EVENTS
IN THE REGION AND FROM OTHER GROUPS AROUND LONDON.

Islington Boat Club

**ANOTHER IN OUR OCCASIONAL SERIES ABOUT
COMMUNITY BOAT GROUPS IN LONDON**



City Road Basin, once the largest of many trading basins on the Regent's Canal, has become the home of the Islington Boat Club founded in 1970 by Crystal Hale (daughter of IWA President Sir Alan Herbert) who is still actively involved.

They started by buying for £500 *Water Gipsy*, an old Thames Barge to use as a floating club-house. A few borrowed boats, a ladder and a pontoon fished out of the canal completed the equipment they needed to get under way. Lots more kids joined each week and the word got around that they needed support. The Guides loaned a rescue launch. The Town Clerk gave his sailing dinghy. Thames Youth Venture provided canoes and rowboats, and ILEA provided a club leader.

In 1972-4 development and infilling plans threatened the basin. At the public enquiry it was the Boat Club's lively presence and massive local support that saved most of the water area. A great ally in this campaign was Illyd Harrington, now the Club's President as well as our own IWA Region President.

The derelict buildings that used to line the basin have been replaced with a new housing estate, and the club's use of the basin is protected by Islington Council, who have leased the basin from BW for 40 years. The Boat Club now has its own premises, for which they had to raise £200,000. It was opened in

1985 and houses the club's social facilities, staff offices, workshops for repair of boats, and special facilities for the disabled.

A water adventure playground, youth centre and one of the largest water sports centres in Inner London, the club is used by young people of mixed backgrounds from all over Islington. Of course most kids enjoy just messing around in boats, but they also acquire new skills and values which will be a bonus later in life. An amazing total of 4,000 kids use the club each year. A new member must be able to swim and do a capsiz test (done in the local swimming pool). For a modest annual subscription they then get free canoeing, rowing and sailing and expert tuition.

Islington's community boat *Angel of Islington* moors at the club and is often used by groups of members for day trips or weekend cruises.

As is sadly very common, they are suffering from cut-backs in local authority funding and keen to raise funds from other sources, in which they are assisted by their own support group, *Friends of the Islington Boat Club*. If you want to join, to make a donation, or to learn more about the Club, please contact:

Islington Boat Club
16-34 Graham Street, London N1 8JX
Telephone 0171-253 0778

Mike Stevens

On the Metreau

News and Gossip of London's Waterways

IWA LONDON REGION SPRING DRAW '95

Our first IWA London Region Spring Draw attracted a good response and raised £980 for Region funds. Your Region Committee would like to extend a big 'thank-you' to those who helped sell our draw tickets, to those who bought tickets, to those who sent cash donations and to those individuals and organisations who donated prizes. We were fortunate in that the Draw had no expenses so the proceeds from the sale of tickets represented the final sum raised.

The winning tickets were drawn on the final day of Canalway Cavalcade by Lindy Foster of Bridgewater Boats, who kindly donated the first prize of a one-week holiday for four aboard a Bridgewater Boats hire-boat. The winners of the draw were as follows:

- 1st Prize (narrowboat holiday): Mr A N Romanov of London NW3.
- 2nd Prize (High Line Yachting gift voucher for £75): Mr B Nathan of London NW7.
- 3rd Prize (Uxbridge Boat Centre gift voucher for £75): Miss D Howes of London NW7.
- 4th Prize (portable black and white TV): Mr R Thomas of London W10.
- 5th Prize (Viking Nautical Knot Displays framed knot board): Mr W Angel of London SE13.
- 6th Prize (annual subscription to Waterways World): V Mathews of London SW18.
- 7th Prize (annual subscription to Canal and Riverboat): Mr A Burgess of Barnet.
- 8th Prize (Canal Walks of England and Wales by Ray Quinlan): Janet Cole of London W6.
- 9th Prize (IWA travel bag): Mr R Waller of Carshalton.
- 10th Prize (colour print of FMC steamer President at the IWA Windmill End National Waterways Festival): Mr H Coles of Harrow.

Richard Bird

Editor's Note

The reason that Richard is able to write that the Draw had no expenses is that he himself sponsored the cost of printing the tickets. We thank him very much for this as well as for his hard work in organising the Draw.

LIMEHOUSE FESTIVAL

The 1995 Limehouse Festival took place on 8 and 9 July to fit in with development plans for the basin. This unfortunately clashed with events in Ealing and Guildford and therefore prevented some boaters from attending. The event was again a joint venture between IWA, BW, London Docklands Development Corporation, the Limehouse Co-operative and, newly this year, the Cruising Association. As we expected, with other events at the date and some

boats (including your Editor's) already on their way North to the National, there were far fewer boats at the Festival than last year.

During the weekend a team from the Royal Victoria Docks provided canoeing opportunities, and the newly-restored Accumulator Tower was open to the public. St Pancras Cruising Club led cruises round the Bow Back Rivers and the Isle of Dogs, both of which included a large proportion of the boats attending. Oxford Camerata produced a concert in St Anne's Church on the Saturday evening with the theme *From Pepys to Dickens*, with music and readings. A canoe jousting competition was held on Sunday afternoon, which was won by a team from the Cruising Association.

Next Year's Festival will be on 5th and 6th October 1996.

Libby Bradshaw

CANALWAY CAVALCADE GOSSIP - 1

On sorting through my papers from the Cavalcade, I came across the following item submitted for use in the commentary on one of the boating events. No prizes for guessing the author.

'Built by Les Allen on the BCN, to the interior design of the owners, the boat is supposed to be 57ft 6in long. Driven today by Dave Dent, usually seen only in his role as Pageant Master. Dave claims to have the essential requirements for boat-handling; he can shout and swear a lot and has a wife who can always do better. At least he got that bit right. Not known in the family for his handling skills, his one claim to fame is making the turn at Hawkesbury Junction on his first ever visit. However he says I am not to mention his attempt to remodel Keadby Lock on the river Trent.'

BOW BACK RIVERS

The job that Marion Waters used to do for the London Borough of Newham as their River Clearance Officer has now been transferred to the Lower Lea Project, where she will be working alongside the Project Officers, Nick Ely and Pam Travers, based very appropriately at Three Mills. She tells us that, as well as a few additional projects, she will be carrying out all the duties she had with Newham, including the Bow Back Rivers plaque scheme. If you wish to contact her about this or anything else to do with the Back Rivers, her work address is now:

Marion Waters, Lower Lea Project
The Custom House, Three Mill Lane

Bromley-by-Bow, London E3 3DU
Tel: 0181 983 1121 Fax: 0181 983 1689

The IWA representative to the Lower Lea Project is now Peter Cardy (phone no. on page 2), appointed by our N and E London Branch.

ARE YOU A LAND SURVEYOR and willing to give a little time now and then to our Planning and Navigation Committee? From time to time they could make good use of somebody with that skill who could make themselves available. For example, they are currently looking at one canal-side planning application where they strongly suspect that the width of the canal quoted by the developer is far from accurate. So they need to measure that width without access to the other side. If you have these skills and are willing to help, please contact Ron Bingham (phone number on page 2).

LEN HOUSE MEMORIAL

London Region Committee has decided to create a memorial to the late Len House, whose obituary was in our last issue. This will take the form of an exhibit at the London Canal Museum about the IWA and its history and will be funded, in part, from the profits of 1994 and 1995 Canalway Cavalcade. This conjunction is highly appropriate since Len was one of the IWA representatives involved in the many years' planning that had to go on before the Museum became possible, and was also a stalwart worker at the Cavalcade. While the exhibit will normally form part of the display at the Museum, we hope it will be in a form that will enable it to go out on loan to special exhibitions from time to time.

CANALWAY CAVALCADE GOSSIP—2

1995 Canalway Cavalcade excelled its own records for 'laying-up' the Committee. Following Dave Dent's broken leg in 1991 (I think) and Libby Bradshaw's ankle injury in 1993, this year Libby again damaged her leg (and is still nothing like fully recovered), Ann Hancox had a nasty fall and your Editor had a couple of months on a walking stick after hurting his foot showing off his former square-dancing ability.

CREW EXCHANGE

Calling all boaters needing an extra pair of hands for lock-wheeling! We have had a number of responses to the Crew Exchange idea, but unfortunately it has been a bit one-sided (most of them have been from people offering their services as crew, as opposed to people wanting crew). Do all you boat-owners out there never have problems getting crew for your boating trips? Thanks to those who have written to me—there have been some interesting ideas put forward, and quite a few enquiries from overseas

(Belgium and the United States, for example). If anyone else is interested, do get in touch with me by letter or telephone, especially those single-handed boaters who would like an extra pair of hands. (Phone number on page 2).

Alison Struckett

THAMES TIDEWAY CLOSURES

A Notice to Mariners earlier in the year told of the monthly barrier closures for test purposes. The dates from now to October are:

Tuesday 29 August, 09:25 to 12:20

Sunday 8 October, 07:10 to 17:10

These are full barrier closures: there will also be frequent closures of individual gates.

The river will be closed to traffic between Waterloo Bridge and St Saviour's Dock from 15:50 to 16:30 on 16 August for a rehearsal for part of the VJ-Day celebrations. These celebrations themselves are on 19 August, but I do not seem to have details of the closure.

200 CLUB

You may be wondering what has happened to this! It was formed some years ago by the then London Branch to raise money for the internal purposes of the Branch; hire of rooms for meetings, administrative costs etc. On the splitting of the former Branch into three it was decided that the Club should pass to London Region. Dorothy Robbie, who had administered the Club for several years, decided that pressure of work made it a good time for her to give up the job. We thanked her for her work over the years, but there was some delay before we found anybody willing to take on the responsibility. However the last Region Committee meeting appointed new Officers to the Club; Mike Stevens as Chairman, Vernon Draper as Secretary and Alan Russell as Treasurer (coincidentally, one from each of the Region's three Branches). Currently Vernon is sorting out the inherited paper-work and we plan to re-launch the Club in the near future, as well as catching up, for the sake of continuing members, with the draws that have been missed during the interregnum.

APOLOGIES to Middlesex Branch for the fact that the delays to this issue meant we were not able to give any advance publicity to their guided walk on the Grand Union Towpath in Uxbridge on 16 July. Your Editor has not heard how it went, but is confident that the Branch would have run it with their usual flair.

NORMAN ALBOROUGH, the former Editor of *Canal and Riverboat*, made a lot of friends in London during his tenure of that office. If any of them would like to contact him, his address is 5 Blakeney Close, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 9DD. Phone 01372 741 094.

The Narrows Flotilla

BRITISH NARROWBOATS VISIT BELGIUM

During May and June, thirty-one British narrowboats were transported to the Belgian waterways system for a 2-week cruise including the Ghent Waterways Festival.

The idea of this 'Narrows Flotilla' came from John Colpaert, Water Tourism Development Officer for Ghent. Every two years he tries to arrange something special for his Ghent Waterways Festival. John asked Mark Lloyd, Commercial Development Manager for BW, 'any chance of some narrows?'. Mark said yes and then approached IWA through Chris Port as he felt that it should not be a BW event but a joint IWA/BW event, a chance for the two organisations to work together on a combined project. Chris is part of a team who regularly work together on events in London, so he, Libby Bradshaw, Ian Ferguson and Liza Godfrey joined Mark as the working group for the trip and set up a company to handle the money.

Originally only 10 places for boats over 50ft in length had been offered but, as expected, the number of longer boats applying exceeded this. After re-negotiating the mix of transport available, it was possible to take nearly all of the boats that applied for a place in the flotilla, including a 'shell' from Midland Canal Centre for an exhibition by the main sponsor, Solvay, and two boats from hire companies. During the trip over 100 British boaters took part, the average at any one time being about 80. The crews included a large number of IWA members from all over the country.

The boats were craned out at Limehouse and transported by road to Ramsgate, then by Ostend Lines to Ostend, where they were plopped into the dock. On 24 May the flotilla departed from Ostend to the sound of ships' hooters in the dock. We then cruised from city to city, staying for a day in each to see the sights.

There being no *Nicholson's* for Belgium, Christiaan Waeytens (East Flanders Water Tourism) had drawn and written very good navigational information for the trip, a copy of which went to each boat. Christiaan was seen to amend his copy during the trip. Was the flotilla a 'proof-cruise' for the first real cruising guide to the Belgian waterways?

The flotilla visited, in order, Bruges, Oudenarde, Kortrijk, Deinze, Ghent and Bruges again before returning to Ostend. There was a warm welcome from the officials and general

public in all of the cities. It was estimated that over 8000 people visited the hire-boats during the cruise.

Each city held a reception for the flotilla at which IWA and BW were presented with gifts. The team had commissioned special Measham teapots which were presented to the cities and their representatives to commemorate the flotilla's visit. Many of the cities also presented a gift to each boat.

The moorings and facilities provided were variable. Some cities had been able to take up the recommendations made following the pre-flotilla site visits, providing good access and water supplies, others were less successful. Ironically the access problems were worst at Ghent, which prevented the public visiting a range of the private boats which they had been able to do elsewhere. On reflection it makes one realise how much the availability of facilities along our own waterways can be taken for granted.

There was considerable media interest in the flotilla. Television cameras filmed from day one. A radio crew broadcast live from the flotilla on the approach to Oudenarde, which drew crowd of several hundred locals to follow the boats into town along the towpath. Another radio crew travelled with the flotilla from Deinze to Ghent along with 10 winners of a national radio competition who were entertained on the boats. The flotilla was seen on television news coverage in Northern France, the Netherlands and Germany as well as in Belgium. There were radio interviews with Mark Lloyd, James Griffin (Wyvern Shipping) and Eddie Baldwin (Canal Boatbuilders Association) and a television interview with Libby Bradshaw at Deinze.

The return journey included for some an unexpected view of Ramsgate Docks overnight, approximately 12 feet above sea level on articulated trailers. The regular truck drivers at the port were surprised to see people climbing into their boats to get a few hours rest!

There was definitely a pioneering/campaigning feel to the trip, and on the whole the boaters enjoyed themselves. The trip was received well by the Belgians. The boaters were seen to promote the Belgian waterways for leisure use, provide a view of our Inland Waterways, and make a positive statement of European Community.

Libby Bradshaw and Ian Ferguson

IWA Golden Jubilee, 1995/6

As I am sure all our readers know, 1996 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of IWA. The Jubilee celebrations will be spread over more than a year, starting at the National Waterways Festival in Chester this August and continuing to the end of 1996.

At National level, one focus will be the International Canals Conference in Birmingham in June. A giant jigsaw is being prepared in the form of a map of England and Wales in which each piece will represent an IWA Branch and will carry some pictures of waterway features in that Branch. Each piece will be carried from its home Branch to Birmingham by water, and the jigsaw will be assembled at the Conference. We are arranging for the three pieces from the London Branches to be brought together at Canalway Cavalcade and sent on their way from there. It is possible that the South East Region will join us in this project, and we are hoping that the transport to Birmingham will be provided by the FMC steamer *President*.

All three Branches in our Region have been busily planning their Jubilee Activities, as has the Region Events Team. At the Region Committee meeting on 25 July the draft calendar of Jubilee events in and around London (including those we know of organised by other groups) looked like this:

Easter weekend (6 and 8 April) IWA Herts Branch plan to cruise the whole of the canal in their Branch area.

Saturday 27 April IWA Middlesex Branch Treasure Hunt starting from Uxbridge (by boat or on foot)

Saturday 4 and Monday 6 May Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice, with the send-off of the jigsaw pieces.

Tuesday and Wednesday 7 and 8 May We are hoping to arrange a couple of evening social events on the Regent's Canal, located in places that boaters attending Canalway Cavalcade can get to in 'short hops' without needing to take time off work, and which will take them towards the next event. Possible venues are under discussion but not yet finalised.

Thursday 9 May Campaign cruise past Parliament organised by South London

Branch. The tides mean that we shall need to lock out from Limehouse mid-afternoon to cruise through London and finish at Brentford and/or Teddington.

Saturday 11 May We hope to arrange a dinner to mark the Jubilee: this is the actual anniversary of IWA's first public meeting and so the Jubilee of IWA events in London.

Weekend 18 and 19 May Rickmansworth Waterways Festival.

Weekend 25 and 26 May AWCC Rally, probably at Willowtree Park, also probably the Wendover Arm Festival near Tring.

Weekend 1 and 2 June Boat Rally at Three Mills, Bow, organised jointly by IWA N and E London Branch and St Pancras Cruising Club.

Weekend 22 and 23 June St Pancras Cruising Club's own Rally.

Saturday 20 July Middlesex Branch Rally at Willowtree Park.

Sunday 4 August Middlesex Branch man Denham Deep Lock.

Weekend 5/6 October Limehouse Festival.

All the above are pretty definite fixtures, although for many of them planning is at an early stage. We shall bring you more details as they are decided.

In addition there is a strong possibility of a major Waterways for Youth event in the Royal Victoria Dock in either the Summer or the Autumn, and South London Branch are hoping to arrange a joint event with the sailing club on South Norwood Lake (the former reservoir for the Croydon Canal), probably during the Autumn. Various other ideas are in the air but as yet too tentative to write about.

The whole Jubilee programme will have a range of purposes. Having fun is clearly one of them. Publicising IWA, its past achievements and future aims is another, which we hope will generate an increase in membership. We also want to raise money for a special Jubilee fund to build up our reserves for any future major campaign expenditure like the Yorkshire Derwent legal battle.

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.

At last you have a choice!

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

Friendly

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

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

Receptive

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

Accessible

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

Convenient

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

Handy

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

Relaxing

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

Peaceful

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: 0181 841 6585**

Waterways Events in and around London

See page 15 for details of Venues and Contacts for further information,
page 16 for maps of how to find the new venues

SEPTEMBER 1995

- Until 8 October LONDON CANAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION: Canal and Waterways wildlife.
- Sunday 3rd 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. THREE MILLS AND THE BOW BACK RIVERS.** Meet at Bromley-by-Bow tube station.
- Sunday 3rd ANGEL CANAL DAY, City Road Basin
- Tuesday 5th 8.00pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).** Mike Stevens: *Inland working boats.*
- Weekend 9th/10th LONDON WRG DIG on the Thames and Severn Canal.
- Tuesday 12th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** Talk on a waterways topic: speaker to be confirmed.
- Thursday 14th 7 for 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE: Arthur Farrand Radley: *The Thames and the armed forces: Woolwich and Deptford.*
- Thursday 14th 7.45 for 8pm IWA CHELSMFORD BRANCH: Richard Thomas: *From Old Ford to the Thames.*
- Sunday 17th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL:** Camden to Islington. Meet at Camden Town tube station.
- Tuesday 19th 8.00pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON).** Arthur Dungate: *The Basingstoke Canal and the new aqueduct.*
- Tuesday 19th (to 8 Oct) LONDON CANAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION: Children's Art
- Tuesday 19th 8.00pm IWA HERTS BRANCH. Chris Mitchell: *How I survived the Grand Union.*
- Thursday 21st 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL.** Roger Squires: *Some waterways in France and in Japan.*
- Wednesday 27th 8.00pm IWA KENT and EAST SUSSEX BRANCH. *Water Safety*
- Friday 29th 8.00pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).** George and Audrey Aldridge: *Knots and splices.*
- Saturday 30th **IWA NATIONAL A.G.M.** See *IWA Waterways* for details.
- Weekend 30th/1st LONDON WRG DIG on the Stowmarket Navigation.

OCTOBER

- Sunday 1st **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH OUTING** to Tooley's boatyard, Banbury. Details from Alison Struckett (phone number below)
- Sunday 1st 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE NEW RIVER:** Manor House to Highbury. Meet at Manor House tube station.
- Tuesday 3rd 8.00pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).** Richard Thomas: *A day in the life of a London refuse tug.*
- Tuesday 10th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.** Talk on a wildlife topic: speaker to be confirmed.
- Tuesday 10th (to 27 Nov) LONDON CANAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION: History of the Port of London and Docklands.

- Thursday 12th 7 for 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE.
Chris Elmers: *History of the Port of London and Docklands*.
- Thursday 12th 7.45 for 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH. Ron Evans: *The Anderton Lift*.
- Wednesday 11th 8.00pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (SOUTH NORWOOD).**
Arthur Farrand Radley: *The Thames and the armed forces: Woolwich and Deptford*.
- Sunday 15th 2.30pm **IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE NEW RIVER:** Highbury to Angel. Meet at Highbury and Islington tube station.
- Tuesday 17th 8.00pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON).**
Brian Daubeney: *A new look at Brindley*.
- Tuesday 17th 8.00pm IWA HERTS BRANCH. Stuart Antill: *Russian waterways*.
- Thursday 19th 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL.**
Arthur Dungate: *The Basingstoke Canal and the new aqueduct*.
LONDON WRG DIG: venue to be arranged.
- Weekend 21st/22nd IWA KENT and EAST SUSSEX BRANCH. *Thames Sailing Barges*.
- Wednesday 25th 8.00pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).**
Friday 27th 8.00pm Roger Budds and Mike West: *French waterways—experiences on the Charente*.

NOVEMBER

- Weekend 4th/5th LONDON WRG (and other WRG groups): DIG'95: Thames and Severn Big Dig.
- Sunday 5th 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.** Details to be arranged.
- Tuesday 7th 8.00pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON).**
Speaker: Roger Squires.
- Wednesday 8th 8.00pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (SOUTH NORWOOD).**
Mike Stevens: *The Leeds and Liverpool Canal*.
- Wednesday 8th (to 29th) LONDON CANAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION:
The ice trade and ices and Carlo Gatti
- Thursday 9th 7 for 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE:
Robin Weir: *A history of ices and London ice-cream makers*.
- Thursday 9th 7.45 for 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH. John Geary: *By steam and sail*.
- Tuesday 14th 7.30 for 8pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH.**
Hugh McKnight: *Some European Waterways*.
- Thursday 16th 7 for 7.30pm **IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL.**
Speaker to be announced.
- Sunday 19th 2.30pm **IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.**
Details to be arranged.
- Tuesday 21st 8.00pm **IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON).**
Tom Ridge: *Dr Barnardo's and the Ragged School Museum*.
- Tuesday 21st 8.00pm IWA HERTS BRANCH. Richard Thomas: *A Bridgewater too far*.
- Friday 24th 8.00pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM).** Martin Ludgate: *Fulbourne: a restored boat on restored waterways*.
- Thursday 30th (to 2 Jan) LONDON CANAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION: London's lost route to Midhurst, the story of the Earl of Egremont's Navigation

DECEMBER

- Weekend 2nd/3rd LONDON WRG: Joint Christmas Party Dig with KESCRG.
- Sunday 3rd 2.30pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK.** Details to be arranged.

Tuesday 5th 8.00pm	IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON). Quiz.
Thursday 7th 7 for 7.30	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM LECTURE. P A L Vine: <i>London's lost route to Midhurst, the story of the Earl of Egremont's Navigation.</i>
Tuesday 12th 7.30 for 8pm	IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH. Hand-bell ringing demonstration.
Wednesday 13th 8.00pm	IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (SOUTH NORWOOD). Brian Daubeney: <i>Up the Limehouse Cut.</i>
Thursday 14th 7 for 7.30pm	IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL. Quiz and Auction.
Thursday 14th 7.45 for 8pm	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH: Christmas Social (£3)
Sunday 17th 2.30pm	IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. Details to be arranged.
Tuesday 19th 8.00pm	IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON). Quiz.

VENUE DETAILS and CONTACT PEOPLE

MEETING	VENUE	CONTACT
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	<i>The Barley Mow</i> Horseferry Road, SW1 (Nearest tube Victoria or St James' Park) SEE MAP OVERLEAF	Tim Lewis 0181-367 6227
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	Hillingdon Canal Club Uxbridge Wharf Rear of 32 Waterloo Road Uxbridge	Alison Struckett home: 0181-691 7215 work: 0171-486 8484
IWA N and E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON)	<i>The George</i> , Liverpool Road, N1 (corner of Tolpuddle Street, nearest tube Angel)	Alan Russell 0181-529 0689
(EDMONTON)	Millfield Arts Centre Silver Street, Edmonton N18 (Close to Silver Street BR station). SEE MAP OVERLEAF	Alan Russell 0181-529 0689
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (NORWOOD)	<i>The Albion</i> , corner of High St and South Norwood Hill, SE25 (Close to Norwood Junction BR) SEE MAP OVERLEAF	Mike Stevens 0181-674 9387
(MOTTINGHAM)	<i>The Royal Tavern</i> , Mottingham (corner of Court Road and Sidcup Road, close to Mottingham BR).	Dorothy Robbie 0181-857 6367
LONDON IWA/LONDON WALKS TOWPATH WALKS	As listed. Each about 2 hours £4 (concessions £3)	Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti 0181-882 1337
IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	AEU House, Primrose Hill Chelmsford	Mrs Molly Beard 01702-554 492
IWA KENT and EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	<i>The Fountain Inn</i> , Tonbridge Road Barming, Maidstone	Angela Madle 01634-722661
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP	Various venues. Meeting point usually Waterloo Station 7pm Friday to travel to site.	Tim Lewis 0181-367 6227
LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	12/13 New Wharf Road King's Cross, London N1 9RT Normal opening times 10.00am—4.30pm Tues-Sun Admission: adults £2.50 (concessions £1.25) Tickets for lectures £2 (concessions £1)	0171-713 0836

NEW VENUES FOR SOCIAL MEETINGS

