

Excalibur

THE LONDON NEWSLETTER OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION NUMBER 23, SPRING 1997

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Our Region Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Libby Bradshaw and Ian Ferguson, crewing the 1909 Josher steamer *President* and butty *Kildare* at last year's Rickmansworth Canal Festival.

PHOTO : Vernon Draper

WHO'S WHO IN LONDON IWA

☎ = answerphone

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From the Editor

APOLOGY

My sincere apologies for the long gap since the last issue of *Excalibur*. I'm afraid the Autumn issue was delayed by pressure of my other work, and imperceptibly turned into a Winter issue aimed to reach you for Christmas. Then I was taken ill, so Winter'96 turned into Spring'97, and here we are. We have tried to fill the gap with a Branch newsletter from each Branch in time to give you notice of your Branch AGMs.

THANK YOU, ALAN

While I was still thinking of this issue as the Winter'96 one, I had a letter from Alan Cheal to say that changes at his work-place would mean he was no longer able to do our typesetting. Alan has type-set *Excalibur*, and *Windlass* before it, for more years than most of us care to remember. In recent years he has also set the Canalway Cavalcade programme brochure. And all of this free of charge! Alan has often said to me that he doesn't have time to serve on any IWA committees, so providing his professional services to the Association has been the one contribution he has been able to make.

We owe Alan a huge debt of gratitude. When I first became involved in publications, many years ago and for another organisation, I learned that for a professionally-produced magazine one needs to budget about the same sum for typesetting as for printing, so Alan's work for IWA over the years must have saved us many thousands of pounds, as well as giving a good professional appearance to the publications he has done for us.

I am grateful to Alan for putting up with my editorial idiosyncrasies and the perpetual shortage of notice I've given him for each job. Mike Stimpson, who edited *Windlass* for about five years, says much the same. The Region Committee has expressed its thanks to Alan.

Alan has pointed out that now we are in the age of home computers and desk-top publishing, there are other ways of achieving a good-looking publication than using a professional type-setter. This is right, and the editorial matter of this issue has been prepared using *Microsoft Word 7*. But I shall be surprised (as well as extremely pleased) if we achieve as professional an appearance as we have been used to during Alan's years in the job!

AND WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

In our last issue, I wrote that the prospect of my taking over the Region Secretaryship made it urgent that I should hand on the editorship of *Excalibur* to somebody else, and that the Autumn issue would be my last. Autumn has stretched into Spring, and here I am, still editing away since no-one else has come forward to take over. I can't make any firm commitment to *Excalibur* from now on. I have told the Region Committee that if there continue to be no other volunteers, then I will still produce some issues of the magazine, but can't make any promises about timing. Hence there are no future copy dates on this page. The Region Committee will review the situation at its next meeting at the end of March. It would be good if by then there were a volunteer to take over the Editorship.

In case this is, indeed, my last issue as your Editor, I would like to thank the Region Committee (and the former London Branch Committee) for the free hand they have given me over the years. Thanks also to everyone who has written for me, or sent in photos, to our advertisers and to those who have given up evenings for "envelope-stuffing parties". Above all, thanks to you, the readers. Your responses over the years, whether by letter or in conversation, have, above all, been the thing that has made me feel that the job has been worth doing.

Mike Stevens

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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Published by the Region at 114 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UQ. Telephone (0171) 586 2510/2556.

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

The last of Golden Jubilee Year



A view of the Limehouse Festival from the top of the Hydraulic Accumulator Tower, with the fleet of narrowboats moored to the "beach" and sailboards in action near the tidal lock.

PHOTO : Mike Stevens.

Our last issue's article on Jubilee Year ended with the gathering of boats at Willowtree Park on 20 July, and a quick look ahead to what was still to come.

Many of us from London, with or without boats, met up at the 1996 "National" at Windmill End, some of us wearing various other hats. Those visiting by road included a mini-bus load organised by Adrian Steinkamp for South London Branch. The "National" has been extensively reported and commented on elsewhere., so I won't repeat here what you will have read already, nor offer my contribution to the discussion of what was right and what wrong with the event.

On the run-up to the "National", London IWA members were well represented at other BCN events, the BCN 24-hour Marathon, and IWA Lichfield Branch's barbecue at Anglesey Basin, followed by several days' worth of Explorer Cruise organised by the BCN Society.

Back in London, the one boating event left in our Jubilee calendar was the Limehouse Rally over the weekend of 5/6 October. This was organised jointly by IWA London Region, BW, the Limehouse Co-operative and local community

groups, with support from the London Docklands Development Corporation.

Visiting boats, mainly narrowboats with a few cruisers, moored on the "beach" on the North side of the Basin, facing the large yachts and sea-going cruisers based in the Marina. Because no tides were expected to top Bow Locks and cause variations in level at Limehouse, it had been decided not to bring in any mooring pontoons. But the difference in level between the water and the piling of the "beach" was enough to cause some problems for the less athletic among us.

There were two main trade areas : most of the waterway-related groups were situated on the old quay above the beach, by the Docklands Light Railway arches, one of which housed the excellent bar. Among the stalls here was that of the Thames Barge Sailing Club which almost compensated for the fact that no sailing barge had been able to attend the event. The main stage for entertainments was next to the Limehouse Cut, from which point the second trade area, including the community groups, extended across Ropemakers' Fields.

One very welcome sight was a group of dinghies operated by the Docklands Watersports Centre, from the Royal Victoria Dock, for anyone who cared to have a go. Laburnum Boat Club's boat *Opportunity* provided a water-taxi service from one side of the Basin to the other.

As always at Limehouse events, there were cruises to join. The usual "round the Isle of Dogs" cruise went anti-clockwise for a change, with a few timing problems, since a large contingent of boats visiting the Marina was locking in as our flotilla was locking out. Another old favourite, the cruise of the Bow Back Rivers, this time found some very significant shallows. Comparison with the similar cruise at the time of the Three Mills Rally a few months before shows that the semi-tidal conditions have brought silting to a degree where the state of the tide makes a lot of difference to the navigability of the Back Rivers.

Saturday evening brought a really impressive firework display sponsored by the developers who are building the next stage of flats etc round the Basin, and a do-it-yourself barbecue on the "beach".

On Sunday afternoon the draw took place for the Region Jubilee Draw, of which you can read more on another page. The winning tickets were drawn by Alan Jervis, IWA's national Vice-Chairman, and our Region Vice-President Arthur Farrand

Radley. These two also re-staged the presentation to Farrand of the Cyril Styring Trophy, a national IWA award for notable campaigning. The original presentation of this to Farrand had been at the national AGM earlier in the year. Alan also received a cheque for £4,000 as the Jubilee Appeal's share of the proceeds of the Draw.

A more private presentation was also held on the Sunday afternoon, when commemorative T-shirts were presented (as a personal gift from Region Deputy Chairman Ian Ferguson) to the five boats which had been at all the events commemorated on the Region's "multi-plaque" and T-shirts. The events concerned were Canalway Cavalcade, the Campaign Cruise past Parliament, the Three Mills Rally, Willowtree Park boat gathering and Limehouse Festival. The boats that scored a full set of these were *Lucy*, *Panacea*, *Robert Child*, *Helix* and *Felis Catus II*.

After Limehouse, the one Jubilee event left in London was the Middlesex Branch / Hillingdon Canal Club Firework Party. Much as I had been looking forward to this, I didn't make it as I was already going down with the "bug" that kept me out of action on and off for quite a lot of the winter. But I've heard some very appreciative comments from those who did go.

Mike Stevens



Region Chairman Libby Bradshaw and national Vice-Chairman Alan Jervis with the cheque for £4,000 that represented the Golden Jubilee Appeal's share of the proceeds of the Region Jubilee Draw.

PHOTO : Richard Packer

From the Region Chairman

Firstly I must make a correction to my last message, in issue 22, where a misprint of a date stated that Arthur Farrand Radley had been London Branch Chairman in 1994 and had cajoled me into directing Canalway Cavalcade at that time. It should, of course, have read 1984.

Since our last edition, Farrand has been presented with the Cyril Styring Trophy and embarked on a different campaign, asking Laura Richards to marry him, which she did in January. Congratulations and much happiness to you both.

In the last issue I mentioned that BW had put in a Single Regeneration Budget bid for which we were awaiting details. That bid has been successful and more details of the project may be found on page 10 and in the talks which members of BW staff are now giving to our Branch and Region meetings. We hope this will be a real opportunity to work together.

So far there has not been much response to my invitation to people involved in community boat projects and youth groups, apart from the ones already known to us. Hopefully this work will progress during the next few weeks, in particular the Junior Narrowboat Skipper scheme initiated at last year's Canalway Cavalcade. I have also offered to further the idea of a waterways badge for Scouts as part of *Waterways for Youth* nationally, and hope that this same group will be able to make progress on this in the near future.

The IWA Golden Jubilee Appeal reached its target of £50,000 shortly before Christmas. The donation of £4,000 from the Region Golden Jubilee Draw, together with the contributions from our Branches and the Region, made up over 10% of this target. Interestingly, this tallies with our proportion of the national membership.

The JCB excavator was bought in time to be presented at last year's World Canal Conference in June and within 24 hours was out working on a midland canal restoration project. WRG has now bought three new vans which are being presented to IWA Council on 15th March. These will then go out to work at the Walsall Canal clean-up, Lapal Canal Camp and Montgomery Canal Camp all within the following three weeks.

Members of London Region have made an enormous contribution to the IWA Golden Jubilee year, both in raising funds and in their extensive range of activities. A big thank-you to everyone

who has been involved in both organising and supporting these. It has been impressive to see the wide range of activities on and off the water and with an appeal to all age-groups. Over 200 boats have taken part. Our thanks go to Hillingdon Canal Club and St Pancras Cruising Club for their part in the organisation of some these events.

An outstanding contribution to our Golden Jubilee activities was made by Richard Bird, whose untimely death has overshadowed the last few weeks. This contribution involved not only running the Region Golden Jubilee Draw but also the Canalway Cavalcade trade show, support to the Three Mills and Limehouse trade shows and his many offers of help throughout the year. One secret activity, announced at the Middlesex Branch & Hillingdon Canal Club firework party in November was that Richard and Dorothy had got married the day before. We were all delighted for them and deeply saddened that their marriage has been so tragically cut short. Our thoughts are with Dorothy at this time.

Richard was one of the hardest-working IWA members I have ever had the privilege to know. He was much loved by the many people with whom he came into contact, and a full tribute from Mike Stimpson may be found on page 13. Richard's report of the Golden Jubilee Draw, *Fifty Prizes for Fifty Years*, is typical of his modesty as it in no way indicates the huge amount of work he put into obtaining the prizes and running the Draw. Out of the fifty prizes, we were delighted that our national Chairman, Audrey Smith, won a copy of L T C Rolt's book *Narrow Boat*, which I was able to present to her at the following IWA Council meeting. As the book which probably led to the formation of the IWA, this seemed a particularly appropriate prize for our national Chairman to win in our Golden Jubilee Year.

Richard, Dorothy and I have been close personal friends for many years and have also worked closely together on many IWA activities. I have had the good fortune to work with Richard on Canalway Cavalcade, South London and London Region Committees. Hardly a day went by without some discussion between us about various projects in which we were both involved. We will all miss his energy and enthusiasm, but most of all his personal friendship.

Libby Bradshaw

Notice of Region Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the London Region of the Inland Waterways Association will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday 17 April 1997 at *The Barley Mow*, Horseferry Road, Westminster.

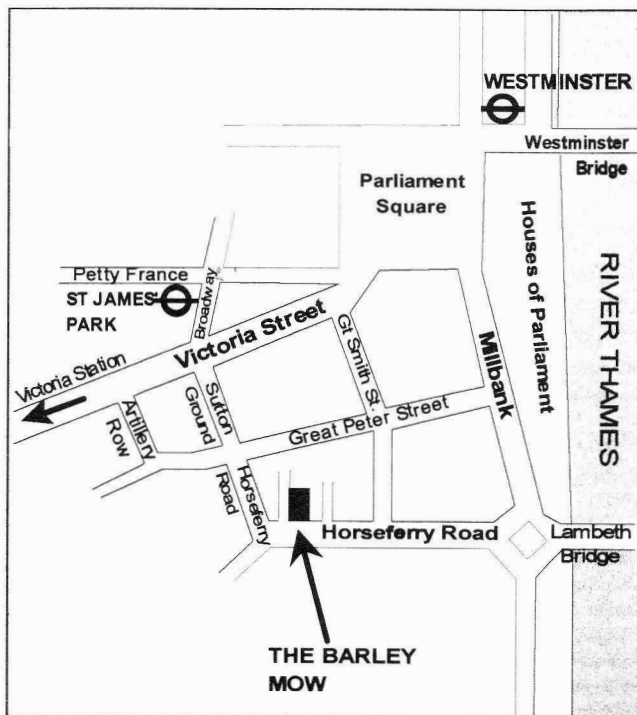
AGENDA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Apologies for absence | 6. Adoption of accounts |
| 2. Minutes of the 1996 AGM | 7. Statement of Committee size |
| 3. Matters arising from the Minutes | 8. Election of Committee members |
| 4. Report of the Chairman and Secretary | 9. Appointment of Hon. Accountant |
| 5. Report of the Treasurer and presentation of accounts | 10. Remarks by a member of IWA Council |
| | 11. Any other business |

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Nominations must be submitted in writing, to be received by the Region Secretary (Mike Stevens, 333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS) **no later than Thursday 3 April**. Each nomination must carry the names of proposer and seconder, and a signature of the candidate to show that (s)he accepts nomination. Candidates must be paid-up members of IWA at the time of election.

How to get there



Canalway Cavalcade 1997



At a previous year's Canalway Cavalcade
PHOTO : Richard Packer

Since 1983 Canalway Cavalcade has been London's premier waterway event, and 1997 will be no exception. For all that time it has been the principal event organised by IWA London Region, (and London Branch before it).

This year, as usual, it will be on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend (3rd to 5th May). We have chosen *Roses and Castles* as the event's theme for 1997. Roses and castles are, of course, the traditional themes of decorative painting on canal boats and their equipment. We have selected the theme in commemoration of one of IWA's early publicity campaigns. A group of IWA members, led by founder Tom Rolt's first wife Angela, organised an exhibition of canal art and artifacts, which opened at the Mansard Gallery in Heal's store in Tottenham Court Road on 14 October 1947. It later toured the country for eighteen months drawing record crowds in many galleries.

We hope that this theme at Canalway Cavalcade will give boaters some good ideas for the pageants of decorated boats on the Saturday afternoon and of illuminated boats on the Sunday evening. There is no need for them to interpret the theme in a traditional manner.

This year's Canalway Cavalcade will include all those aspects that have become established favourites : the two pageants of boats, the boat-handling competition (spread over Sunday and Monday), a range of musical and other entertainments including the Daystar Theatre Company and the puppet theatre barge *May Brent*, and the children's activities that reach their

climax on the Sunday afternoon with the Teddy Bears' picnic.

Before his recent death, Richard Bird had already booked in more traders than ever before, and this year's floating exhibits will include a boat from boatbuilder Pat Buckle.

Boat entries are also up compared with the corresponding date last year : but it's never too late to book, although since moorings in the main pool are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis (taking account of boat length), people booking now are likely to find themselves on the Delamere Terrace moorings. If you would like a boat entry form, please ring Ann Hancox on (mobile) 0370-785 483..

For visitors without boats the site is open from 10 am to 6pm on each of the three days and partly open on the Sunday evening for the illuminated boats event. Admission is free, but we hope to tempt you to make a donation before you leave. Canalway Cavalcade attracts a unique combination of boaters, non-boating waterways enthusiasts, local residents and tourists, all in considerable numbers. They all seem to enjoy themselves, as do our traders, many of whom come back year after year.

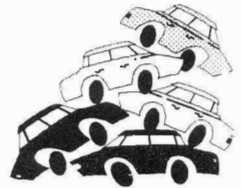
For any enquiries concerning publicity, please contact Mike Stevens. Other enquiries should go to the event's Chairman, Libby Bradshaw. Contact details for both are on page 2.

Mike Stevens

CRASH!!!

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On the Metreau

News and gossip of London's Waterways

Cash grants for London waterways ...

London has not missed out in the recent crop of grants to waterways projects. While such projects as the Kennet & Avon, the Rochdale and the Huddersfield Narrow are to benefit from Lottery funding, London's waterways have been given two separate grants from the Government's Single Regeneration Budget (SRB).

The first that we heard of was the success of a BW-led bid under the title *London's Canals and Rivers : A Strategic Plan for Regeneration*. This covers the Southern sections of the Grand Union and the Lee (from Enfield), the Paddington Arm and Regent's canal and the catchment areas of the lower Lee, the Brent and the Crane.

Because the navigations concerned have Cruiseway or Commercial status, the grant can't be spent directly on navigational improvements, so the scheme's objectives concern :

1. Business and employment opportunities,
2. Leisure, tourism and recreational demands for the 21st Century,
3. Water quality and environmental issues,
4. Education, training and skills of local schools, businesses and communities, and
5. Linking strategic sites via access and environmental improvements.

Not much detail has yet been announced, and much of what has been is open to different possible interpretations. As I write, the next stage of detailed planning for the first year of the 7-year project should have been submitted, so we hope to know more shortly. IWA welcomes the principle of bidding for funding from this source, and will monitor each stage of development to try to secure the maximum possible benefit for all waterway users.

BW's partners in the project include the London Boroughs along the waterway corridor, the Environment Agency, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the Groundwork Foundation as well as a number of more local organisations. The total cost of the project is £18.18 m of which £12.75m will come from the SRB, £2.45m from BW and the remainder from other partners

.... including the Bow Back Rivers

There is a separate successful SRB bid, led by local authorities, for regeneration work on the Bow Back Rivers. Your Editor hasn't seen any papers about this, but has heard a report from our Planning and Navigation Chairman, Ron Bingham. Since the Back Rivers are remainder waterways the restriction on using the grant for navigational improvements does not apply.

One of the proposals in this scheme is to modify Bow Locks (or to replace them on a different site) so as to keep the tide out of the presently semi-tidal section of the Back Rivers (and hence also the Bow River section of the Lee and Limehouse Cut and Basin). If this comes about it will go a long way to cure the severe silting problems suffered by these waterways as a result of their semi-tidal nature. We had an very interesting discussion of this in our Planning and Navigation Committee, considering alternative ways of doing this. We were divided between those who wanted to gain as much non-tidal navigable water as possible and those who felt a need to preserve the historical integrity of the tide mills.

Do your bit!

All IWA members should by have received a letter from our national Chairman, Audrey Smith, about Parliamentary letter-writing during the General Election campaign. The leading issue at the moment concerns funding for the nationalised waterways, but even if that were not the case, then a high profile for IWA and the waterways would still be needed to pave the way for other parts of our campaign.

If every MP in the new Parliament, of whatever party, arrives there after reading a lot of letters about waterways (s)he will start with an assumption that a lot of people care about them.

Heed Audrey's call and write today.

New meeting-places

North and East London Branch had an enforced move for their Islington social meetings when the pub they had been using closed for refurbishment. They are now re-established just round the corner at the *Three Johns* in White Lion Street, where they will meet on the first Monday of each month.

Middlesex Branch plans to launch an additional venue for social meetings to cater for those members in the SW corner of our Region who are a long way from any of our existing socials. This will be at the *White Cross Hotel* in Richmond. They will meet there on the fourth Tuesday of each month from September 1997.

Congratulations to Region Vice-President Arthur Farrand Radley on his recent marriage to his (and our) long-time friend Laura Richards. Perhaps life really does begin at 80!

Region 200 Club winners

August

£50	Vernon Draper	Coulsdon
£25	Mr R J Weldon	Wallington
£12	Mrs J Greenfield	Yateley
£12	Mike Evans	Hertford

October

£48	Mike Evans	Hertford
£24	Mr K J Watts	Plaistow
£12	Peter Austin	Rugby
£12	Mr R J Fenton	Chingford

January

£44	Tim Lewis	Enfield
£22	Joe Busby	S Harrow
£12	Mrs S M Hudson	Uxbridge
£12	Mary Llewellyn	S Norwood

Jubilee poem

A few months ago Vernon Draper sent me a quote from the Daily Telegraph Weekend supplement about towpath walking on the BCN, which quoted the following section of John Freeth's *Inland Navigation : An Ode* :

*What mortals so happy as Birmingham Boys?
What people so flushed with the sweetest of joys?
All hearts fraught with mirth as the Wharf shall appear
Their aspects proclaim it the Jubilee year*

Vernon comments that this is apparently nothing to do with our own Golden Jubilee, as it was written in 1769. Also at that date George III had only been on the throne nine years, so what is the Jubilee concerned?

Your Editor promptly entered "Sherlock" mode and discovered the following facts which appear to be relevant :

- The first section of what was to become the BCN was opened on 6 November 1769.

- Charles Hadfield's *The Canals of the West Midlands* quotes, in connection with this, what could well be another part of the same poem :
*Then revel in gladness, let harmony flow
From the district of Bordesley to Paradise Row,
For true-feeling joy in each breast must be wrought
When coals under fivepence per hundred are bought.*
- The word "jubilee" once had a much wider meaning than it has today and described any time of rejoicing.
- A John Freeth is recorded as Clerk of the BCN company in 1825. This is probably too late for it to be the same man, but it could well be a relative.

Tideway news

I'm sure that most of you will have seen the work going on in the Thames opposite Charing Cross. This is a big engineering project to strengthen the Underground tunnels under the river. The work began in October and was expected to last eight months.

When reduced flows over Teddington Weir result in Low Water being below Chart Datum, warning of this will be given on VHF Channel 14 from Woolwich Radio when the falling tide reaches Chart Datum at Richmond, and then repeated half-hourly.

Scheduled closures of the Thames Barrier are as follows :

- Thursday 27 March, 0830 → 1100 GMT
- Thursday 24 April, 0840 → 1110 BST
- Friday 23 May, 0815 → 1045 BST
- Monday 23 June, 0920 → 1150 BST
- Tuesday 22 July, 0910 → 1140 BST
- Wednesday 20 August, 0900 → 1130 BST

Other tideway navigation closures are :

- Tuesday 18th March between Blackfriars Railway and Waterloo Bridges from 19:50 to 20:20 for a fireworks display.
- Wednesday 19th March between Putney Pier and Chiswick Bridge from 12:15 to 14:30 for the Schools' Head of the River Race.
- Saturday 22nd March between Putney Pier and Kew Railway Bridge from 15:15 to 17:15 for the Eights' Head of the River Race

- Sunday 23rd March from Kew Railway Bridge to Hurlingham Wharf from 10:30 to 12:15 for the Vesta Veterans' Head of the River Race
- Saturday 29th March between Fulham Railway and Chiswick Bridges closed from 14:30 for the Universities' Boat Race.
- Sunday 5th April from Putney Pier to Kew Railway Bridge from 14:15 to 17:15 for the Scullers' Head of the River Race.

No longer seasonal, but still fun.

*On the twelfth day of Christmas
my weed-hatch showed to me*

*12 BW brochures,
11 feet of hosepipe,
10 cola bottles,
9 WRGies sweatshirts,
8 wire baskets,
7 hire-boat fenders,
6 ducks a-drowning,
5 porno mags!
4 plastic sack,
3 bent blades,*

*2 windlass handles, and
an old supermarket trol-ley.*

(Composed by Dave Bryant for South London Branch's Christmas Dinner.)

Planning issues on the Thames

Back in June, the Government Office for London (GOL) published a document called *Strategic Planning Guidance for the River Thames*. This was a consultative draft for guidelines which, when they are adopted, will become Government Policy and binding on Planning Enquiries. It deals with the Thames from Windsor to the sea. Ron Bingham and your Editor each went through the part of the document dealing with "our" bit of the Thames (Teddington to Crayford) and found very little to disagree with, and a lot to welcome.

Our only quibble was that in dividing the river into sections for the purposes of the document, it chose to draw one boundary at Hampton rather than Teddington, where it becomes tidal.

On the other hand we liked the document's awareness and encouragement of water-borne transport for passengers and freight, and the planning protection which it proposes for 36 wharves (not all currently operational). With wharves increasingly threatened by more lucrative development possibilities, such protection is very welcome.

The document also says useful things about the river and its environs as a strategic open space,

about access to the foreshore and about the Thames Path and (hopefully separate) Cycle Route.

The forward to the document is by John Gummer, as Secretary of State for the Environment, and rumour has it that he takes a personal interest in the proposals. The consultation period ended on 1 October and the final paper is published. At the time of writing we have ordered a copy are waiting for it to arrive.

Head Office needs two volunteers

One person is needed between the 25th of each month and the 10th of the next to do 20 hours of envelope-stuffing. The other is required for 20 hours per month to do data entry and filing. The hours which suit Head Office are 10:30 → 15:30, which includes a break for lunch, but clearly these are open to negotiation. Any reasonable travel expenses and the cost of a light lunch will be funded on production of receipts.

Head Office would like these volunteers to be members of the IWA who already have indicated a commitment to the Campaign. Any training required will be given: the tasks are not very demanding but do require the performer to remain alert.

The location of Head Office is very conveniently situated for the West End of London and you may wish to combine a little voluntary work for the Association with some shopping or a visit to the theatre. Unfortunately IWA will **not** foot the bill for these activities! Please contact Judith Mullington on (0171) 586 2510.

Waterways for Youth

South London Branch plans to offer some *Waterways for Youth* activities at a number of events this Summer, including Canalway Cavalcade (3-5 March) and (as last year) at Croydon Borough's *Take Part* day on Saturday 7 June. We need person-power to make this possible. If you are interested, please contact any member of South London Branch Committee (see page 2).

Barking Creek Tidal Barrage

The next phase of construction of this began in February and was expected to last 26 weeks. Early during this phase, the eastern side of the creek was due to be re-opened to navigation and the western side closed.

Canalside projects gain prizes

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea makes annual environmental awards. This year two of the four prize-winners were not only canalside but also canal-related.

The New Buildings Award was won by the Boathouse, Canal Close, W10, an outdoor education and watersports centre by one of the old canal basins at Kensal Rise. The Centre also shared the Disabled Access Award. Next time you are provisioning your boat at Sainsbury's, have a look at this building which is almost next door.

The general Environmental Improvements Award was given to the towpath in the same area for improvements to access and linking to other regeneration projects.

Thanks to Arthur Farrand Radley for passing on this information.

Which reminds me

... that I haven't been to that area recently to see if BW has yet put up a sign to mark the new moorings on the off-side. The thought struck me that they might name the moorings after the prominent landmark on the other side of the wall, and put up a sign saying *Kensal Green Cemetery - Long-Term Moorings*.

Limehouse Basin development

Our Planning and Navigation Committee recently looked at planning proposals for the next stage of building developments at Limehouse, which will build on the North and West sides of the Basin. There will be some potentially interesting public areas, and a new pub adjacent to Commercial Road lock. We have submitted comments on some aspects of the proposals.

Thames sponsored walk

Our own towpath walks will be put into the shade by a 213-mile walk by five young women beside the Thames from Thames Head to the Thames Barrier. Their support team will accompany them on the boat *Gresham Cruiser*, sponsored by Cotswold Boat Hire. The walk is in aid of Shelter and the Homeless Network and will coincide with *National Housing Week* (30th May to 7th June). Other walkers are welcome to join parts of the journey. If you are interested, or would like a sponsorship form to support the event in that way, please contact *Walk for A Change* on (0181) 854 1680.

RICHARD BIRD 1946-1997

A great loss to the IWA and the waterways movement as a whole occurred on 10th February when Richard Bird died in hospital following a severe stroke, having had major heart surgery the previous week.

Richard joined the Association in 1975 and quickly became an active member in both London Branch and the South East Region. His expertise in organising and fund-raising saw him run the Trade Show at a number of "Nationals" over the years and he became a director of IWA Rallies Ltd in 1982. At these events he always made the time to make sure all the Traders were happy.

During his very active time with the Association, he has twice won the John Heap Silver Salver for his fund-raising activities and in 1996, during the IWA's Jubilee Year, he raised over £7,000 for the London Region Draw (*See Richard's own article about this on page 14*), of which £4,000 was donated to the Jubilee Appeal as well as considerable amounts through Canalway Cavalcade and in other areas.

By profession he was a printer and these skills he also frequently used on behalf of IWA, including printing *Excalibur*.

Richard was born on the same day as IWA's first public meeting, and celebrated his 50th birthday with us at the Region Jubilee Dinner.

Richard was a man everyone loved and his personality was a most valuable asset to the Association, backed by his total enthusiasm and commitment to the Inland Waterways.

He was a keen boater and owned *Rigal* for some years and was a part-owner of *Hadley Rail*. Latterly he and his wife Dorothy were in the group that own *Fulbourne* and most recently they commissioned *Tarn* which won the Lionel Munk Award at the 1994 National Waterways Festival.

Richard's open and friendly character and his great sense of humour resulted in his becoming personal friends with numerous people with whom he came into regular contact; his ability to get on with the job won him universal respect.

Dorothy asked that friends did not send flowers to Richard's funeral, but those who wish could send a donation to the IWA's Jubilee Appeal, in Richard's name, to further waterway restoration.

Mike Stimpson

Fifty prizes for fifty years!

London Region's IWA Golden Jubilee Draw finally raised over £7,000! More than 6,800 tickets were sold and your Region Committee would like to warmly thank all those who supported the Draw by buying tickets as well as those who managed to sell tickets to their friends and colleagues.

The winning tickets were drawn at the Limehouse Festival on 6 October by Alan Jervis, IWA Deputy Chairman and our own Arthur Farrand Radley. During the draw our Region Chairman, Libby Bradshaw, presented Alan Jervis with a cheque for £4,000 to go directly to the IWA Golden Jubilee Appeal. The presentation was the first of as number of donations from the proceeds of the Draw that will go to restoration projects all over the country. Our own Region will retain £1,000 to help with the IWA's work in London.

The two major prizes were Harley Crossley's magnificent painting of the Anderton Lift and a one-week hire-boat holiday for six, compliments of Lindy Foster of Bridgewater Boats. These two prizes, together with the other forty-eight and the actual draw tickets, were all donated to the Draw. The major prize-winners are as follows :

- Harley Crossley's *The Anderton Lift* : H Seeckts from Shropshire
- Bridgewater Boats' one-week holiday hire : A Tidmarsh from Somerset
- Galleon Marine short break holiday hire : Mrs J Horne of Gwent
- Kennet Cruises short break holiday hire : D Nicoll of Suffolk
- Shire Cruisers short break holiday hire : Ms C Richmond from Middlesex
- Rose Narrowboats one-day boat hire : B Brock from Worcestershire
- High Line Yachting £100 gift voucher : W Sowerby from Surrey
- Day-trip on ex-working narrowboat *Fulbourne* : I Greenhalgh from Oxfordshire.

Space does not permit us to list all the other winners and prizes. A copy of this information is available by ringing Dorothy Robbie on (0181) 857 6367.

Finally we would like to thank all those organisations and individuals listed below (in alphabetical order) who donated the prizes to the draw. Without their help the Draw could not have taken place.

Libby Bradshaw

Bridgewater Boats

Canal Boat

Canal & Riverboat

Croydon Canal Bhaji Group

Harley Crossley

Ian Ferguson

Galleon Marine

High Line Yachting

IWA (Sales) Ltd

Jancraft

Kennet Cruises

Leighton Printing

Rose Narrowboats

Shire Cruisers

Thames Barge Sailing Club

Jennifer Thomas

Uxbridge Boat Centre

Paddy Walker

Waterways World

And thanks also to Richard Bird, who wrote the above. It was Richard who donated the printing of the tickets, and the postage, as well as vast amounts of his own time.

Ed.

The missing piece or how Middlesex missed the boat

In the Summer '96 issue of Excalibur, your Editor confessed ignorance of what actually happened to the Middlesex Branch piece of the Jubilee Jigsaw. Now all can be revealed.....

The Middlesex Branch jigsaw piece was delivered to Hillingdon Canal Club at the end of April. It seemed surprisingly large, as we had expected it to be about A4-size. There was a rumour that what we actually had was a double-sized replica - the real Middlesex being part of a combined London Region piece. Having heard nothing officially, we dismissed this and carried on with the journey.

The planned journey of the Middlesex piece was very simple: it would be loaded on the steam narrowboat *President* in Uxbridge at our Treasure Hunt at the end of April and would be taken by them, via Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice, all the way to Birmingham.

President didn't arrive, and amongst the excitement the piece got forgotten. The next Saturday at Canalway Cavalcade the sudden profusion of other jigsaw pieces jogged a few memories. A search was mounted and the piece retrieved and taken to Little Venice to rejoin *President* for the journey North. Unfortunately amidst all the bustle it got left under the sales stand where it was found on Monday evening, long after *President* and the other pieces had left.

Luckily the IWA boat *Jubilee* was at Cavalcade and due to meet up with *President* at the Rickmansworth Canal Festival in two weeks' time. The jigsaw piece was duly loaded onto *Jubilee* where it took part in a cruise to the Houses of Parliament, an institution which probably thinks it abolished Middlesex some years ago.

On 18 May the boat and its cargo arrived in Rickmansworth. It was joined there by the Chiltern piece - our unsuccessful attempts to work out how the two joined together further fuelled the rumours that there was something odd about our piece. When we came to transfer it to *President* it was nowhere to be found. *Jubilee* and

President both carried on to the Braunston Boat Show without our cargo.

At Braunston a sheepish figure appeared on *Jubilee* and handed back our jigsaw piece. Whilst he was visiting the Rickmansworth Festival he had apparently noticed how much smaller it was than the Guildford and Reading piece with which he was supposed to canoe along the Thames the following week. This one would be much easier to fit on his canoe. Unable to resist the temptation, he had secreted it under his jumper and made off with it. During its absence it had a tour of their waterways, including a canoe trip along the Wey and Arun.

Safely recovered, the piece remained on *Jubilee* during the Braunston Boat Show over the Late Spring Bank Holiday weekend. *President* slipped quietly off sometime during the Monday, the piece did not. On Tuesday morning our piece set off on *Jubilee* for a circular tour of the country.

We came across it again at Worcester and at Stone, where we had the last chance to send it to Birmingham with the local piece, but by now it seemed a permanent feature on *Jubilee*, people were taking an interest and it seemed a shame to remove it. An executive decision was made to let it continue. At the time of writing it is on its way down the Thames, and by the end of 1996 it will have travelled over 1,000 miles.

Anyway, even if the rumours of a duplicate weren't true, isn't there always one piece missing when you get to the end of a jigsaw?

Rosie Limming

EDITOR'S AFTERTHOUGHT

We had the same problem trying to match the South London jigsaw piece with those from Chelmsford and Kent & East Sussex. Perhaps the problem wasn't, as we thought, the rough seas in Limehouse Basin.

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Tel: 0181 841 6585**

Waterways events in and around London

See back page for details of venues and contacts for further information.

MARCH

- Tuesday 18th 8 pm** IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH : EDMONTON SOCIAL. Branch AGM followed by Madge Bailey (BW) : *BW's plans for the future of the River Lee.*
- Tuesday 18th 7:45 for 8pm** IWA HERTS BRANCH : Richard Thomas : *The Manchester Ship Canal.* Followed by Branch AGM.
- Thursday 20th 7 for 7:30 pm** IWA LONDON REGION : CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL : Martin Ludgate : *The "Dig Deep" project.*
- Thursday 20th 8pm** IWA CHILTERN BRANCH : AGM followed by Bob Cotton : *Waterways stamps & historic waterways documents.*
- Weekend 22nd & 23rd** LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP : Dig on the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal at Oxenhall.
- Wednesday 26th 8pm** IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH : Branch and S.E. Region Annual General Meetings.

No South London Branch Social at Mottingham in March because of the date of Easter.

APRIL

- Monday 7th 8 pm** IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH : ISLINGTON SOCIAL. Peter Cardy : *The trials and tribulations of staging the National.*
- Sunday 6th 2:30 pm** LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Mile End → Limehouse. Meet at Mile End station.
- Tuesday 8th 7:30 for 8 pm** IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL: Don Boot : *The work of the River Thames Society's River Wardens.*
- Wednesday 9th 8 pm** IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH : SOUTH NORWOOD SOCIAL: Roger Squires : *London's Thames bridges.*
- Thursday 10th 8pm** IWA CHELSMFORD BRANCH : Wendy & Tim Atkin : *The Bedford Ouse Cruise.*
- Saturday 12th 7:30 for 8pm** IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH : Annual Dinner at the Riverside Restaurant, Watlington. £14.50 per head. Bookings to John Lockhart (see back page).
- Tuesday 15th 8 pm** IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH : EDMONTON SOCIAL : discussion with a member of IWA Council of the future of the Waterways and the IWA's future rôle and policy..
- Tuesday 15th 7:45 for 8pm** IWA HERTS BRANCH : John Geary : *By Steam and Sail.*
- Thursday 17th 7 for 7:30 pm** IWA LONDON REGION : CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL : London Region AGM followed by a speaker from BW about the SRB grant for regeneration of London's Canal Corridor.

- Thursday 17th 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH : Speaker from the Towpath Action Group.
- Weekend 19th & 20th LONDON WATERWAY TRECOVERY GROUP : Dig to be arranged.
- Sunday 20th 2:30 pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS** : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Camden → Islington.
- Friday 25th 8 pm **IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH** : MOTTINGHAM SOCIAL Chris Ware: *The National Maritime Museum — the museum for the Millennium*

MAY

May Day Bank Holiday weekend Saturday 3rd → Monday 5th **IWA LONDON REGION : CANALWAY CAVALCADE AT LITTLE VENICE.** London's premier waterway event. Contacts :

Boat Entries	Ann Hancox	0370-785 483
Press & Publicity	Mike Stevens	(0181) 674 9387
General enquiries	Libby Bradshaw	(0181) 874 2787

Sunday 4th 2:30 pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS** : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Camden → Paddington. (*Finishes at Canalway Cavalcade*). Meet at Camden Town station.

Thursday 8th 8pm IWA CHELSMFORD AND KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCHES : Quiz at Moulsham Mill near Chelmsford.

Thursday 8th IWA CHILTERN BRANCH : Spring walk.

Tuesday 13th 7:30 for 8 pm **IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL** : Joan Thompson (RSPB) : *Bird-watching from the canal.*

Wednesday 14th 6:30 pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS** : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Paddington → Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station.

Wednesday 14th 8 pm **SOUTH LONDON BRANCH** : SOUTH NORWOOD SOCIAL: Mike Stevens : *Canal and railway rivalry in the 19th Century.*

Thursday 15th 7 for 7:30 pm **IWA LONDON REGION** : CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL : Speaker to be announced.

Weekend 17th & 18th RICKMANSWORTH CANAL FESTIVAL. Details from Rickmansworth Lock Centre, (0923) 778 382.

Weekend 17th & 18th LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP : Dig on the Thames & Severn Canal at South Cerney.

Sunday 18th 2:30 pm **LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS** : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK : THREE MILLS AND THE BOW BACK RIVERS. Meet at Bromley-by-Bow tube station.

Tuesday 20th 8 pm **IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH** : EDMONTON SOCIAL : PC Gotch of the Metropolitan Police Thames Division ; *The River Police.*

Tuesday 20th 7:45 for 8pm IWA HERTS BRANCH : Mike Palmer : *Restoring waterways.*

Wednesday 21st 7:30 for 8pm IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH : David Makepeace (Chief Exec, Maidstone Borough Council) : *The proposed River Park development.*

Late Spring Bank Holiday Weekend 24th → 26th WENDOVER ARM TRUST : Wendover Canal Festival on the Wendover Arm. Contact : Barry Martin (01908) 312 239

Wednesday 28th 6:30 pm LONDON IWA WITH *LONDON WALKS* : LONDON IWA WITH *LONDON WALKS* : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Camden → Islington. Meet at Camden Town tube station.

JUNE

Sunday 1st 2:30 pm LONDON IWA WITH *LONDON WALKS* : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Islington → Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station.

Saturday 7th IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH taking part in Croydon Borough's *Take Part* day for youth at South Norwood Lake

Tuesday 10th 7:30 for 8 pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL : Skittles Match against other IWA Branches.

Wednesday 11th 6:30 pm LONDON IWA WITH *LONDON WALKS* : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Islington → Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station.

Wednesday 11th 8 pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH : SOUTH NORWOOD SOCIAL: Waterways Challenge Quiz against Middlesex and N&E London Branches.

Weekend 14th & 15th LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP : Dig on the Wey & Arun Canal at Devil's Hole

Sunday 15th 2:30 pm LONDON IWA WITH *LONDON WALKS* : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE NEW RIVER, Manor House to Highbury. Meet at Manor House tube station.

Tuesday 17th 7:45 for 8pm IWA HERTS BRANCH : Ray Lindley-Jones : *Garston Bird Shelter.*

Weekend 21st/22nd IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH WITH ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB : THREE MILLS RALLY at the Three Mills, Bromley-by Bow, London E3. Very close to Bromley-by-Bow tube station. Details from Alan Russell (0181) 529 9689.

Weekend 21st/22nd PUTNEY BOAT FESTIVAL in aid of The Wandsworth Youth River Club. Details from Mike Simmons (0181) 851 9270.

Wednesday 25th 6:30 pm LONDON IWA WITH *LONDON WALKS* : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK ON THE REGENT'S CANAL, Mile End → Limehouse. Meet at Mile End tube station.

Friday 27th 7pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH : Outing on the paddle-steamer *Kingswear Castle*. Details from Libby Bradshaw (see page 2)

VENUE DETAILS & CONTACT PEOPLE

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	<i>The Barley Mow,</i> Horseferry Road, SW1. (Nearest tube Victoria or St James' Park)	Tim Lewis (0181) 367 6227
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge	Mike Stimpson (work) (01923) 770 425
IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH (ISLINGTON)	<i>The Three Johns,</i> White Lion Street, Islington. Almost opposite Angel tube station.	Alan Russell (0181) 529 0689
IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH (EDMONTON)	Millfield Arts Centre, Silver St, Edmonton, N18. (Close to the Great Cambridge Rd. junction. $\frac{5}{8}$ mile west of Silver Street BR station).	Tim Lewis (0181) 367 6227
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (SOUTH NORWOOD)	<i>The Albion,</i> corner of High St & South Norwood Hill, SE25 (Close to Norwood Junction BR)	Mary Llewellyn (0181) 653 4862
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (MOTTINGHAM)	<i>The Royal Tavern,</i> Mottingham (corner of Court Rd & Sidcup Rd, close to Mottingham BR).	Mike Stevens (0181) 674 9387
LONDON IWA / LONDON WALKS TOWPATH WALKS	As listed. Each about 2 hours. £4.50 (concessions £3.50).	London Walks (0171) 624 3978
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP	Various venues. Meeting point usually Waterloo Station 7pm on Friday to travel to site.	Tim Lewis (0181) 367 6227
IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	AEU House, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford.	Mrs Molly Beard (01702) 554 492
IWA CHILTERN BRANCH	Market Hall, Old Amersham, Bucks.	Roger Leishman, (01442) 874 536
IWA HERTS BRANCH	Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City	Greta Wright (01727) 860 137
IWA KENT & E SUSSEX BRANCH	<i>The Fountain Inn,</i> Barming, Maidstone	John Lockhart (01622) 739 137