

Excalibur

THE LONDON NEWSLETTER OF
THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 26, AUTUMN 1998

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*Last year's Limehouse Festival. This year's is on the weekend of
26th & 27th September.
PHOTO : Allan Scott*

Who's who in London IWA

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From the Editor

Future of the Waterways

We live in interesting times. First came BW's consultation about its own future. This suggested three possibilities:

- Simply relaxing the Government's restriction on the borrowing powers of a nationalised industry,
- The status quo backed-up by a membership scheme as an extra source of income, and
- BW becoming a charitable trust with a membership scheme, but still with a quango running it.

It was clear that the last was their favoured solution, but it later transpired that this was further than they had been authorised to go by the Waterways Minister, Angela Eagle, who had merely wanted them to consult about a membership scheme. It became clear that the figures for a membership scheme did not add up, and we think this is probably now off the agenda. IWA's reaction was to say "Ah, yes, we suggested a *National Waterways Conservancy back in the 1950s. let's republish that document again*", but it has now been realised that the original paper by Robert Aickman needs a thorough revision to fit modern circumstances.

The next development was the idea that BW and the Environment Agency might co-operate over the management of the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse (the EA is currently the navigation authority). BW published a document that was an undisguised takeover bid. Their proposal has aroused some opposition and it is claimed in different quarters that BW has pinched a lot of EA's ideas and passed them off as its own and the document has a lot of its facts wrong. I've not read it, so I can't comment.

Then came the story that the Treasury is looking at the possibility of franchising off the waterways piecemeal like the railways: a scheme in which each canal would be run by whichever commercial operator said he could do with the least Government subsidy. Predictably BW don't like this proposal, nor do any waterways enthusiasts I've spoken to. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) has said that it is "One of several plans under consideration", which some of us take as code for "We're having a fight with the Treasury".

"High-intensity" cruising licence

Another development was BW's proposal for a "high intensity cruising" licence, at the rate of 250% of the normal one. As originally announced, this would apply to those boats licensed as "permanently cruising" and was aimed at the (implied many) who use this simply as a stratagem to avoid paying for a mooring. Then a different BW Executive said it would apply also to anyone who has a home mooring but is away from it for 30 weeks at a time, **but** that it would entitle the boater to a free BW mooring for the winter! Those of us who do much long-distance cruising were outraged. Wendy & I are currently paying for two moorings, our home one in Uxbridge and a temporary one in Birmingham as a staging-post on our way North. And BW wants to more-than-double our licence on top of that? IWA joined with a whole string of other user groups to protest about BW's proposal, which has now been withdrawn "for further consultation".

How about some letters on the above topics for our next issue (see copy-date below)?

Note to contributors

Thanks for your help getting this issue out on schedule. Could contributors please send all *Coming Events* items and short pieces to Alison, longer articles, photos and letters to me (advance knowledge that it is on its way helps me plan the edition).

Mike Stevens

COPY DATES

No. 27	Winter '98	13 th Nov. 1998
No. 28	Spring '99	20 th March 1999
No. 29	Autumn '99	8 th July 1999

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

ROUTES AND BRANCHES :

Region, Branch and navigation news

Middlesex Branch outing to Gloucester

Middlesex Branch is organising a branch outing to Gloucester on Saturday 3rd October. They plan to spend the morning at the National Waterways Museum and the afternoon looking around the docks themselves and the other attractions of the area, such as the Robert Opie Collection (advertising and packaging museum), the Mariners Chapel, the Gloster Regiments Museum and the Antiques Warehouse. A minibus will leave from Hillingdon Canal Club at 9:30 am. Places are limited so booking is essential. Phone Mike Stimpson on (01923) 770 425 for details and bookings.

They plan to be back at the Hillingdon Canal Club for the Daystar Theatre Company's performance of *The Navigator's Legacy* in the evening, organised by HCC.

Central London Social Meetings

The social meetings run by London Region, which take place at the Barley Mow pub, Horseferry Road (between Westminster and Victoria) will now start at 8.00 pm instead of 7.30 pm. We hope this will give people more time to get there. Topics planned for this autumn include restoration, international waterways, our usual Christmas quiz and auction, and a chance to join in with a planning and navigation seminar about London's Rivers. The October meeting will (subject to confirmation) be held on board the barge *Richmond Venturer* in St Katherine's Dock in conjunction with the River Thames Boat Project's anniversary cruise, of which more details can be found on page 11. See the events list for details.

South Norwood Socials

South London Branch Committee has recently heard that the refurbishment of the function room at *The Albion*, where we used to meet, is now complete. Unfortunately this news reached us after we had already published details of our Autumn programme. Since the room at *The Albion*

is a better size than the one at the Conservative Club, we propose moving back to our old venue from January. The venue for our Christmas Party isn't yet decided: it could be either of these or somewhere entirely different! Please ring Mary Llewellyn (see page 2) nearer the time for details.

Troy Cut

For those of you who don't know it, this is a privately-owned arm branching off the main line of the Grand Union just below Coppermill Lock. It was originally built to serve Troy Mill, but has been disused for some years. The latest word is that the former mill lands, including the cut, have recently changed hands and the new owners plan to develop moorings there and provide a base for a restorer of ex-working boats. We hear that planning permission has been granted to raise the towpath bridge over the entrance to the cut to full navigable height.

Congratulations....

... to Tim Lewis and Debbie (Bevan) on their recent wedding. With them and the Russells, North & East London Branch Committee is rapidly becoming a family affair!

Best wishes ...

.. to Gina Young, a stalwart of South London Branch (in particular its sales stand) who is currently in hospital for treatment of a long-standing problem with one of her legs.

Too many boats?

From the July minutes of the Region's Planning & Navigation Committee: "The feasibility study by the ecology department of Islington reported that too many boats are using the canal! It was decided by Plan/Nav that the York Way to Islington Tunnel stretch was too short to trouble with unduly as two other interested parties are attending the meetings, but that we would not want a precedent set by planting against the towpath."

Three Mills Rally, June 1998

The third Three Mills boat rally run by the North & East London Branch of the IWA with the assistance of St. Pancras Cruising Club (SPCC) took place on the weekend of the 20th/21st of June. The blustery conditions of Saturday morning gave the organisers a feeling of 'here we go again' and all we could do was hope that the monsoon conditions of last year weren't about to be repeated. The Mayor of Newham, Councillor Abdul Karim Sheikh managed to bring the sunshine with him as he arrived to attend the lunchtime reception and officially open the rally on Saturday.

The SPCC organised two cruises around the area. On Saturday morning 15 boats cruised Abbey Creek and around Abbey Mill Island. Sunday saw 12 boats going out of Bow locks to Deptford Creek and returning to the rally site via Limehouse. Visitors to the site were also able to enjoy the lovely boating weather thanks to the Lower Lea Project and their trip boat *Pride of Lee* which managed an amazing total of four 1 hour trips on the Sunday and, owing to popular demand, had to lay on an extra cruise to cope with disappointed visitors. There was determined competition to win this year's 'Best Decorated Boat' contest which resulted in a tie for second place (Pete & Pam Miles, n.b. Miles Away who appeared to have cornered the market in bunting; and The Lower Lea Project with 'Pride of Lee' which they had managed to gift wrap!) with the first prize going to Beryl Windsor, n.b. Ann-Louise whose topical theme was the England football team. The second place prizes were 2

videos kindly donated by *Waterways World* demonstrating the art of traditional paint decoration of narrow boats whilst the first prize, donated by the N. & E. London branch, was a beautifully decorated dipper by Tim Whitelock.

The SPCC were on hand to organise an excellent barbecue on Saturday evening for the boaters which was followed by a waterways quiz (won by the *Pride of Lee* team). Roy Jones provided the main entertainment of the evening with his renditions of an amazing repertoire of songs.

Younger visitors were catered for with a range of *Waterways for Youth* activities organised by Sarah Russell. These included knot tying, rose-painting, a treasure hunt round the Three Mills Island and a model of a lock, loaned by the Region Chairman, which managed to soak quite a few children in the process of educating them.

On the Sunday the Day-Star theatre group led a children's theatre workshop followed by a performance of their new play 'The Navigator's Legacy' which proved to be a popular attraction despite competition from guided walks, House Mill tours, farm animals and the craft market.

By 6pm on a beautiful balmy Sunday evening, with the marquee packed away and the site cleared, we all sat by the River Lee and raised a glass to a successful rally, thanks mainly to the many willing helpers on site. We would just like to say - *Thanks, we couldn't do it without you!*

Debbie Lewis

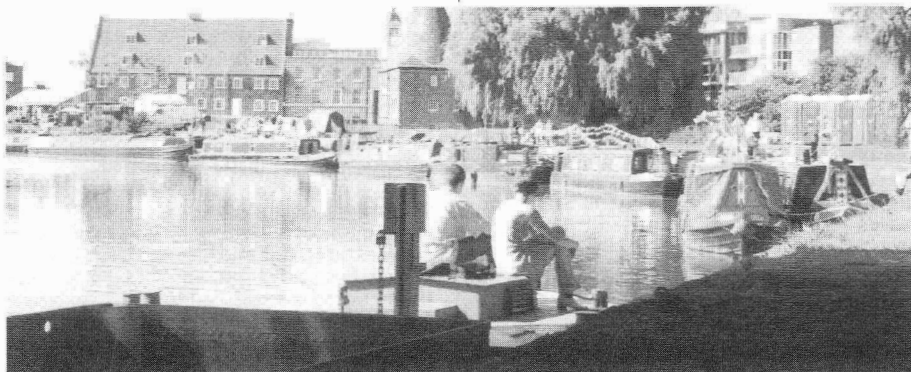


PHOTO : Alison Smedley

From the Region Chairman

At the last Council meeting we were all saddened to hear that Alan Jervis had decided to stand down from IWA council and as deputy chairman of the Association due to pressures of work. Not only had Alan been a member of council for the past 14 years, he was also chairman of the Waterway Recovery Group for 13 years, up until WRG's silver jubilee in 1995. Whilst I am sure "Waterways" will wish to pay tribute to all he has done I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan publicly for all his support to and interest in London IWA's activities over the years, despite living at a considerable distance in Harrogate.

During the IWA golden jubilee year Alan was the driving force behind the Golden Jubilee appeal to which £4000 of the proceeds from the London region draw were donated. Alan showed how much he valued our donation when he accepted my invitation to come to the Limehouse Festival to receive the cheque in person despite the fact that he could only spare a few hours with us.

Alan has been a loyal supporter of Canalway Cavalcade over many years not usually in an official capacity - although we did persuade him into his suit in 1996! Last year he joined me in welcoming Lady Knollys, recently appointed Chairman of IWAAC, and wished to meet people informally at the event rather than attend the official reception.

During the same weekend Alan presented Dorothy Robbie with the John Heap Salver, awarded posthumously by the Association to her late husband, Richard Bird. Richard's motivation for fund-raising was to support restoration work and I cannot think of a single person in the Association more appropriate to make this presentation.

London WRG members also valued Alan's specific support. Again he was willing to travel the extra miles in order to support London WRG in celebrating their former leader Bob Keaveney's silver jubilee dig. This took place in 1992 on the Wilts and Berks - Alan having been the organiser of Bob's first dig at Marple in 1967.

I understand that Alan, along with Chris and Helen Davey, was instrumental in the idea of the BCN Marathon Challenge. Originally planned as a one-off event they were inspired to do it again by some comments they overheard at a later date. London WRG

members continue to support this event as can be seen on page 8.

I am told that Alan is known as the "Harrogate Rain God" in WRG circles and is held responsible for the decline in the weather at various events including the Wakefield National. Apparently the sun came out again straight after he left! Hopefully he will not have that effect at Salford. We look forward to seeing you there Alan and thank you again for all your hard work and support.

Sammy goes North!

We also look forward to seeing Sammy at Salford. Those of you who attended Canalway Cavalcade will know about Sammy; a 40,000 Watt vehicle-mounted generator which was donated to IWA London and all volunteers on the waterways as a thank-you from Michael Samuelson. Sammy was presented at Canalway Cavalcade by Michael who is a long-standing supporter of the canals, mooring his narrowboat *Nebulae* in Little Venice. Michael's generous donation is in recognition of all of us who work as volunteers on the waterways in our various ways.

As Sammy had provided the power for Canalway Cavalcade this year, I presented Michael with Sammy's first plaque. We have made the presentation of a plaque or similar a condition of the use of Sammy at an event. Michael indicated that he hoped that when we are up to our necks in it and feeling undervalued seeing Sammy would remind us that someone thought to say thank-you.

At the end of May Sammy set off to the trailboat festival on the Wilts and Berks at a few hours notice enabling the site crew to turn off the many noisy small generators that were struggling to cope and provide a comprehensive and quiet power supply throughout the weekend.

Sammy will be providing power to the work camp and the administration offices in the preparations for and during the National Waterways Festival at Salford Quays. After that Sammy is scheduled to visit Limehouse for the Limehouse Festival. We are most grateful to you Michael, and look forward to seeing you for many events to come.

Libby Bradshaw

London WRG



*LWRG working on Moredon Bottom Lock, North Wilts Branch of the Wilts & Berks Canal
PHOTO : Alison Smedley*

During the summer we have had weekend digs on a number of our regular projects, including the Lichfield Canal, Thames & Severn Canal, Wilts & Berks Canal (including the North Wilts Branch), Wey & Arun Canal, and the Hereford & Gloucester Canal.

You may have heard of the "Dig Deep" initiative. This is in its 6th year and involves four mobile working groups, London WRG being one, working on specific projects on four canals. The idea behind it being that if the groups can commit themselves to a certain number of working parties then the canal societies can in turn commit resources to those particular projects. The current four projects that we are working on are: Hereford & Gloucester Canal (Oxenhall Lock), Droitwich Junction Canal, Thames & Severn Canal (Wildmoorway Lock) and the Wey & Arun Canal. Possible future sites include installing back-pumping on the Basingstoke Canal, and building by-washes on the Kennet & Avon.

In July we spent one of the nicer weekends (weather wise) of the summer cleaning, sharpening and painting our tools, with a

barbecue in the evening. We also made a detailed inventory of all our tools, and discovered a few we had forgotten existed, as well as one or two whose proper use escapes us! It was eventually decided that a monkey strainer wasn't for straining monkeys (anyway, we usually leave our monkeys behind when we go on digs) but something to do with fencing. Barbed wire fencing, that is, not the sporting kind.

Don't forget that details of our forthcoming digs can be found in the events pages towards the end of *Excalibur*, and our regular social meetings take place on the Wednesday 10 days before each dig. Beware, though, because after 15 years of drinking in the same pub we may be changing the venue after a recent refit to the Founders Arms. Give one of us a ring to check the latest on this.

Tim Lewis (0181 367 6227)

Lesley McFadyen (0181 693 3266)

Alison Smedley (0181 691 7215)

Alison Smedley

Excalibur staff face BCN Marathon Challenge

Of the 31 boats taking part in this year's BCN Marathon Challenge at the end of June, at least two were from London. Our apologies if there were any others we didn't identify. The Challenge consists of 24 hours' boating (within an overall 30-hour limit) with a scoring system designed to encourage use of the lesser-used bits of the BCN.

Felis Catus II was crewed by your Editor and Wendy, with Ben Scott (who had thoughtfully provided a good stock of Holden's beer). We started from Gas Street and were about the third boat through Worcester Bar at 9am, the leading boat's crew singing that well known BCN ditty "Miles and miles of poly round the blade". From there we ran straight to Smethwick locks which we went up in a procession. Ahead of us was a brave single-handed marathon competitor in an ex-hire-boat. At the top of the locks, we ate brunch on the move, before descending Spon Lane locks.

Back on the Main Line, we had a quick run to Pudding Lane and turned into the Wednesbury Old Canal to where it was cut off a few years ago by a new road, just before the point where it became the Ridgeacre Branch. Then we went back to Ryder's Green junction and turned into the Walsall Canal. Our previous experiences of the Walsall had been of considerable difficulty: shallows, rubbish and empty pounds. Would the 1997 Clean-Up Weekend there have made any lasting difference? The answer was a resounding yes. We went right through the whole length of the Walsall to Walsall Town Wharf, followed by the Walsall Locks Branch, without a single spot of bother. What a pleasant change!

We turned right on the Wyrley & Essington and met quite a few other competitors, including a covey of about eight Wilderness Boats who always add an air of jollity to the Marathon with their twirls and twiddles at junctions. Another competitor we sighted at this stage was Pat Perry-Barton on nb *Quercus*, who may be known to those readers who come to Canalway Cavalcade. Free from locks for the rest of the day, we decided it was time for a meal on the move.

At Pelsall Junction we turned up the dead-end Cannock Extension Canal. At the top,

we backed down as far as the wider bit opposite the dry-dock, where there was a notice asking people not to wind there under power as it silts the dock, so I decided to continue backwards until the next feasible winding spot. Re-joining the Wyrley, we went on to Ogley Junction where it comes to an end (for now: best wishes for the Lichfield & Hatherton restoration project) and followed the branch to Anglesey Basin. Our original plan had been to moor in there at about 9:30 pm and restart at 3:30 am, but a look at sunrise & sunset times indicated that a later break would make more sense. And we were actually ahead of schedule. So we decided to go on until 10pm and to reward ourselves by extending the rest break to 6½ hours. By 10pm we had got back to the Wyrley and moored just into the Daw End Branch, still in daylight and very pleased with our day's run.

Meanwhile, Rupert & Alison Smedley on *Ben* had started from Windmill End with a crew largely of London WRG types (7 in total), which came in handy for legging through Dudley Tunnel. It took 2 hours to leg from Park Head Portal to the Black Country Museum, and we got some very strange looks from the museum visitors when we emerged, *Ben* plus crew grubby with the innards of Dudley Tunnel!

After spending 3 of our 6 rest hours in the *Dry Dock* at Windmill End (that's a pub, not a dry dock, for anyone not familiar with the area!) we boated through the night, sleeping in two shifts. The first shift was woken up when we got to Leys Junction so that we were all awake to navigate the Fens Branch and the Stourbridge Extension Canal in the dark. This turned out to be easier than expected, with the Stourbridge Extension in particular being very deep.

On *Felis*, the spirit may have been willing but middle-aged flesh was weak, and our rest-period extended itself to 7 hours. The Daw End was shallow and slow. We hoped to make up time down Rushall locks but were behind another competitor, who was slowed by an empty pound. For quite a lot of the second day we were also slowed by the presence of quite a few anglers (friendlier here than near London).



*The crew of Ben resort to pulling and poling along the Wednesbury Oak Loop.
PHOTO : Alison Smedley*

At Rushall Junction we turned left on the Tame Valley, where again we ran into problems on the Perry Barr flight. As we reached to top lock we met a lock-wheeler from nb *Maple* who was coming up the locks and having to re-fill several pounds. Before long a cheerful lock-keeper was working with both crews to get the levels right and the traffic moving. He said he was glad to see us, as the more boats use his locks, the more chance there is of BW spending some money improving them. And they certainly need some work done on them. In lock 10 there was a large sheet of polythene floating which I thought I'd avoided getting round the blade. Wrong! So Wendy made our only visit of the weekend to the weed-hatch.

By the time we reached Salford Junction we were already well behind schedule and our only thought was how efficiently we could lock through Aston and Farmers' Bridge locks to score as many points as possible before running out of time. Aston started well : we had a good road, but a low pound two down from the top cost us some of the time we'd saved and we were only three locks up the Farmer's Bridge flight when the clocks struck three.

On *Ben*, the second shift went to sleep (sleeping accommodation was in the hold under the flat deck) and during the journey back up Delph Locks we managed to find an extra arm to navigate (where the line of the

old 9 locks goes off). Together with an excursion into Tividale Quays (which in the past has been blocked off to passing boats) on the Old Main Line, these two extra arms meant that we clocked up more than the planned 293 points. We were also, at one stage, 1½ hours ahead of schedule, quite unheard of for *Ben* during the BCN 24 Hour Challenge (usually 6 hours behind is more like it!). We were about a mile-and-a-half from our planned finishing point at Wolverhampton when 3 pm came.

All in all both crews were pleased with the weekend, if distinctly exhausted. Both had just about fulfilled our original cruising plans, even if not all within the allotted time. If the judges agree with our analysis then *Felis* scored about 380 points, which has a chance of putting us in a respectable placing. *Ben* scored 300.75 points, but we concluded a long time ago that in a deep draughted, full length working boat we are never going to win!

Our thanks to everyone in both crews for making it a great weekend, and to Helen & Chris Davey for organising it. Incidentally, they have agreed to give a talk at a Central London Social next spring, on 18th March 1999, so put the date in your diaries now! Next year's BCN Marathon Challenge is on 26th & 27th June 1999.

Alison Smedley & Mike Stevens

ON THE METREAU : news and

Fish and Ships?

The London Seafood Festival is taking place in London Docklands over the weekend of 5th & 6th September. With British Waterways having taken over the running of the Docks last year, it seems an ideal opportunity to get some inland boats attending. Our Region Chairman has negotiated a special package for a group booking, to include locking charges, mooring, plaque, and entry to the festival activities, all for a price which will be **less than the current normal locking fee for the smallest size boat!** An ideal opportunity for lovers of seafood to explore a new bit of water.

Deptford Creek

During the Three Mills Rally in June St Pancras Cruising Club organised a cruise to Deptford Creek. About a dozen boats took part, leaving Three Mills through Bow Locks, cruising down Bow Creek, around the Isle of Dogs and up Deptford Creek. A similar cruise is planned for the Limehouse Festival on Sunday 27th September.

IWA Towpath Policy

After extensive consultation, the final edition of this is now published. Copies are available on request from IWA Head Office.

Half Cut Morris

Half Cut Morris, the Middlesex Branch based Morris side, **still** needs a musician. If you (or anyone you know) are interested, please contact Mike Stimpson on (01923) 770425.

Millennium Maritime Festival

The waterways are not immune from Millennium Fever. The Millennium Maritime Festival will take place in late May, 2000. The main festival will be in London's Docklands with a parallel one in Manchester. A flotilla of sea-going vessels will cruise after the Festival between various ports. Some inland events will link with this at four ports where the inland navigations reach the sea : London, Manchester, Bristol and the Humber (the four corners of Brindley's "Grand Cross"). While some inland vessels converge on these ports, others will head to a central inland venue in Birmingham. Planning is,

as yet at an early stage. We shall report more details as they become available.

London Canal Museum News

The Museum has had two recent VIP visits. On 29th May the visitor was Chris Smith MP, the local Member of Parliament and Minister for Culture. On 7th July, the Museum's Patron, the Princess Royal, visited once again. On both occasions the Museum Trustees were joined by representatives of the Friends of the Museum and the waterway recovery group, who held another work-camp this winter to continue the excavation of the ice-pits. For the Princess' visit, IWA was represented by our Region Chairman and others. That occasion was the debut of the Museum's newest exhibit, a canal horse bobbin-harness whose purchase by the museum was funded by the Friends. Your Editor, as an officer of the Friends, was one of the people who showed the harness to the Princess. Talking to Princess Anne about something to do with horses was not the hardest job of the evening!

The Museum has announced its programme of lectures for the 1998/9 season : see our *Coming Events* pages.

Volunteers are sought for planning and supervising school visits and children's workshops. Please contact Margaret Gwalter on (0181) 769 5020.

As part of its re-launch, the Friends of the Museum is starting a series of social events. The first was a Summer Party held jointly with the Museum's volunteer staff. September will see a guided walk along the Regent's Canal towpath, and October a tea-party with a boat trip available. These will be private functions for members of the Friends (with our friends from WRG). For membership details, please contact John Buchanan, 88 Lime Walk, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 9LQ, 'phone (01442) 401 755.

London Waterway Partnership

This is the BW-led body managing the Single Regeneration Budget project for regeneration of the London Canal Corridor. Although it has been up and running for some time, its official launch took place on 7th July at Paddington Basin. Your Editor represented IWA. It was a matter of self-congratulation that we were already aware

gossip of London's waterways.

of everything that was announced, since Richard Walsh and Michael Render had already told us a lot about the project at their presentations after last year's and this year's Region AGMs.

Canal publicity

BW has recently announced new publicity projects on the Grand Junction, Leeds & Liverpool and Grantham Canals. These projects will study each canal in order to define its individual character and give it its own image. At our Region Committee fears were expressed that this could inadvertently pave the way for future franchising.

The River Thames Boat Project

This year the project (formerly known as the Richmond Boat Project) has a double celebration : the tenth birthday of the Project and the ninetieth of its motor barge, *Richmond Venturer*. The dual anniversary will be celebrated by a week's cruise in October from its base at Kingston to West India Dock and back, with various events at venues along the way. Our South London Branch is supporting the cruise and our Region Chairman will be helping on board throughout the week.

IWA's objectives

The wording of these has been discussed at IWA Council, following representations made by our Region Committee. The wording on IWA's printed notepaper says "*Campaigning for the retention, restoration, conservation and development of the inland waterways for the fullest possible commercial and recreational use.*" We feel this is open to misunderstanding. "Fullest commercial" use could be taken to include all sorts of things that we wouldn't want, like more static trading boats, in-filling bits of canal for commercial use and other such-like unpleasantness. Any ideas for an improved wording will be welcomed by Libby Bradshaw (address on page 2).

National Chairman

As we were about to go to press, we heard that Audrey Smith has decided not to stand for re-election as National Chairman. Our next issue will include an appreciation of Audrey's work in the role.

Strange activities!

An anonymous contributor sends (probably) the 10 most bizarre things he's ever done in connection with the waterways:

1. Sending someone who could neither cycle nor swim along the Manchester Ship Canal towpath on a bicycle to show a certificate of seaworthiness to the MSCCo and collect a licence for a boat whose engine didn't work.
2. Driving around East London looking for a pub at the top of the City Mill River that it would be impossible to go to by boat because of the tides, and then driving back home without stopping there for a drink.
3. Cutting a carrymat into dozens of irregular shaped pieces in the bar of the Foxham Arms and then sticking them all back together in a random order using assorted colours of insulating tape.
4. Deliberately ripping pieces off a nice summer dress, and stitching patches of non-matching material on as badly as possible.
5. Travelling through a tunnel perched on the foredeck of a narrow boat with all the rest of the crew-members plus the boat's emergency water-supply container and the solid fuel stove's entire supply of logs.
6. Cutting most of the pages out of a Nicholson's guide and then cutting all the page numbers off the corners.
7. Spraying a grease-gun in gold paint.
8. Dancing on the roof of a narrow-boat dressed as a cow.
9. Putting out a request on the Internet for a Klingon mask and the words to *Candle in the Wind*.
10. Making a pair of trousers while riding the Bakerloo line tube train in the five stops between Oxford Circus and Warwick Avenue.

Believe it or not, there is a logical explanation for every one of these! Anyone who correctly identifies all ten wins the right to buy me a pint at Salford.

EDITOR'S NOTE :and anyone who correctly identifies the author wins the right to buy *me* a pint *anywhere*.

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Willowtree Marina
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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.

SEPTEMBER

- Saturday 5th EALING BOROUGH COUNCIL: CANAL CRUISE. Meet at 10.45 at Hamborough Tavern, Southall. £11 (adults), £10 (concessions) and £32 (family ticket). Contact Chris Stanley on (0181) 758 5915 for details.
- Saturday 5th HILLINGDON CANAL CLUB: OPEN DAY. Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge.
- Weekend 5th & 6th LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP: Dig to be confirmed, but probably Droitwich Canal.
- Tuesday 22nd, 7:30 for 8pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL at The White Cross Hotel, Richmond-on-Thames. Ron Howes: Kew Bridge Engine Trust.
- Tuesday 22nd, 7.30 for 8pm IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH: *High Summer on the French Canals* with member Dennis Atkinson.
- Thursday 24th, 11am - 3pm LOWER LEA PROJECT : EAST LONDON RING CRUISE ABOARD *PRIDE OF LEE*, depart from Three Mills, Bromley-by-Bow. £7 (adults), £5.50 (concessions). Phone (0171) 515 8558 for info and bookings.
- Friday 25th, 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL: Visit to Limehouse. Meet at the Cruising Association, Limehouse Basin. Transport can be arranged from South London. Contact Neville Munro on (01322) 613428.
- Weekend 26th & 27th IWA LONDON REGION with St Pancras Cruising Club, British Waterways & the Limehouse Co-operative: THE LIMEHOUSE FESTIVAL. Contact: Libby Bradshaw on (0181) 874 2787.
- Saturday 26th IWA NATIONAL AGM, Chelmsford. Details will be in *Waterways*. Minibus being run from the Limehouse Festival.

OCTOBER

- Saturday 3rd IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH: Branch outing to Gloucester Docks. Contact : Mike Stimpson (01923) 770425.
- Saturday 3rd, 9pm HILLINGDON CANAL CLUB: DAYSTAR THEATRE: evening performance of *Navigators Legacy*.
- Weekend 3rd & 4th LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP: Dig on the Wey & Arun Canal. A "Dig Deep" weekend.
- Sunday 4th, 2:30pm LONDON IWA WITH LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK: Regent's Canal, Kings Cross to Camden. Meet at Kings Cross station, by taxi-rank.
- Monday 5th, 8 pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at Jay Cubed, Islington.
- Thursday 8th, 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM Lecture: *Thames Creeks Revisited - the new face of London's Waterside* by Dr Roger Squires

- Tuesday 13th, 7:30 for 8pm** IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL at Hillingdon Canal Club. David Daines: *Fellows Morton & Clayton*.
- Wednesday 14th, 8pm** IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at South Norwood Conservative Club. Bryn Woodward of International Paints. Prize draw.
- Thursday 15th 8pm** IWA LONDON REGION: **CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL: Planning and Navigation Seminar: London's Rivers** - on board MV *Richmond Venturer* at St Katherine's Dock - location to be confirmed.
- Thursday 15th, 7.30 for 8pm** IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH: *London's Canals* by Dr Roger Squires at Gravesend Sailing Club, Gravesend Promenade.
- Sunday 18th, 2:30pm** LONDON IWA WITH **LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK:** Regent's Canal, Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station.
- Tuesday 20th, 8pm** IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at Millfield Arts Centre, Edmonton.
- Tuesday 20th, 7.45 for 8pm** IWA HERTS BRANCH: Herts & Middlesex Bat Group.
- Thursday 22nd** IWA CHILTERN BRANCH: Colin Henwood *A River Thames Boat Builder and Restorer*.
- Weekend 24th & 25th** LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP: Dig on the Lichfield Canal.
- Tuesday 27th, 7:30 for 8pm** IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL at The White Cross Hotel, Richmond-on-Thames. Peter Thompson: *Narrow Boat Diesel Development*.
- Friday 30th, 8pm** IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at the Royal Tavern, Mottingham. *The Massey Shaw Preservation Trust*.
- Saturday 31st, 7pm** LOWER LEA PROJECT: HALLOWEEN NIGHT CRUISE on "Pride of Lee", Departs from Three Mills, Bromley-by-Bow. £7 (adults), £5.50 (concessions). For information and bookings telephone (0171) 515 8558.

NOVEMBER

- Sunday 1st, 2:30pm** LONDON IWA WITH **LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK:** Regent's Canal, Mile End to Limehouse. Meet at Mile End tube station.
- Monday 2nd, 8 pm** IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at Jay Cubed, Islington.
- Weekend 7th & 8th** LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP: WRG Reunion Dig, Thames & Severn Canal.
- Tuesday 10th, 7:30 for 8pm** IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL at Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge. Peter Lea of the National Assoc. of Boat Owners.
- Wednesday 11th, 8pm** IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at South. Norwood Conservative Club. Richard Thomas: *A Day with a London Tug*.
- Thursday 12th, 7.30pm** LONDON CANAL MUSEUM Lecture: *Canal Architecture* by Derek Pratt, photographer and author.
- Thursday 12th** IWA CHILTERN BRANCH: Hugh McKnight: *The Inland Waterways of France*.

Sunday 15 th , 2:30pm	LONDON IWA WITH <i>LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK</i> : Regent's Canal, Paddington to Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station.
Tuesday 17 th , 8pm	IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at Millfield Arts Centre, Edmonton.
Tuesday 17 th , 7.45 for 8pm	IWA HERTS BRANCH: <i>Barging into China</i> .
Thursday 19 th , 8 pm	IWA LONDON REGION: CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL: Roger Squires: <i>How the Americans look at their Canals</i> .
Thursday 19 th , 7.30 for 8pm	IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH: <i>Salford and beyond</i> members' slides of the "National" at Salford Quays.
Tuesday 24 th , 7:30 for 8pm	IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL at The White Cross Hotel, Richmond-on-Thames. Ron Halse: <i>The Somerset Coal Canal</i> .
Friday 27 th , 8pm	IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at the Royal Tavern, Mottingham. Tony Harmsworth: <i>The Basingstoke Canal</i> .

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2 nd , 7.30 for 8pm	IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH: <i>Kent and East Sussex from the Air</i> by Geoff White, plus Christmas Buffet.
Weekend 5 th & 6 th	LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP: Christmas Party Dig with KESCRG on the Buckingham Arm of the G.U'.
Sunday 6 th , 2:30pm	LONDON IWA WITH <i>LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK</i> : Regent's Canal, Kings Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station (by taxi rank).
Monday 7 th , 8 pm	IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at Jay Cubed, Islington.
Tuesday 8 th , 7:30 for 8pm	IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL at Hillingdon Canal Club.
Wednesday 9 th , 8pm	IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY Venue to be decided.
Thursday 10 th , 8 pm	IWA LONDON REGION SOCIAL at The Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, Westminster, SW1. Auction and Quiz.
Thursday 10 th , 7.30pm	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM Lecture: speaker to be confirmed.
Thursday 10 th	IWA CHILTERN BRANCH: CHRISTMAS PARTY
Tuesday 15 th , 7.45 for 8pm	IWA HERTS BRANCH: Christmas Social with <i>Keepers Lock</i> .
Wednesday 16 th	LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP: CHRISTMAS PARTY. Contact Alison Smedley on (0181) 691 7215.
Tuesday 15 th , 8pm	IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL at Millfield Arts Centre, Edmonton.
Sunday 20 th , 2:30pm	LONDON IWA WITH <i>LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK</i> : Regent's Canal, Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station.
Saturday 26 th , 11am	LONDON IWA WITH <i>LONDON WALKS: GUIDED TOWPATH WALK</i> : Canals of Paddington. Meet at Paddington station (Circle & Bakerloo line exit to Praed Street).
Thursday 31 st	ST PANCRAS CRUISING CLUB: <i>New Year's Eve Cruise</i> to Little Venice. Details from Roger Squires, 46 Elephant Lane, Rotherhithe, SE16 4JD.

Venue details & contact people

MEETING	VENUE	CONTACT
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	The Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, SW1. (Nearest tube Victoria or St. James' Park)	Alison Smedley (0181) 691 7215
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	(UXBRIDGE) Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge	Mike Stimpson (work) (01923) 770425
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	(RICHMOND) The White Cross Hotel Water Lane, Riverside Richmond-on-Thames	Mike Stimpson (work) (01923) 770 425
IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH	(ISLINGTON) <i>Jay Cubed</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. (near the Great Cambridge Rd. junction. ⁵ / ₈ mile west of Silver Street BR station).	Tim Lewis (0181) 367 6227
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH	(SOUTH NORWOOD) The Conservative Club, South Norwood Hill, SE25 (Close to Norwood Junction BR)	Mary Llewellyn (0181) 653 4862
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH	(MOTTINGHAM) The Royal Tavern, Mottingham (corner of Court Rd & Sidcup Rd, close to Mottingham BR).	Neville Munro (01322) 613 428
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 is usually Waterloo Station 7 pm on Friday to travel to site.	Tim Lewis (0181) 367 6227
LONDON CANAL MUSEUM	12 New Wharf Road, King's Cross, London, N1 9RT Opens Tues. to Sun, 10 am - 4:30 pm. Admission £2.50, concessions £1.25. Admission to lectures £2.00.	(0171) 713 0836
IWA CHILTERN BRANCH	Market Hall, Old Amersham	Colin Bird (01932) 249 178
IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	The Fountain Inn, Tonbridge Rd, Maidstone	Angela Acott (01634) 722 661
IWA HERTS. BRANCH	Hatfield Cricket Club, Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City	Celia Byham (01992) 466 180

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