

Excalibur

THE LONDON NEWSLETTER OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 31, FEBRUARY 2001

EDITOR : Mike Stevens, 333 Lyham Road, London SW2 5NS

'phone (020) 8674 9387

fax (020) 8674 3724

mobile 07850-665 102

e-mail michael.stevens@which.net

Region web site : <http://www.london.waterways.org.uk>



*Martin Ludgate receiving his Richard Bird Medal from IWA's national Chairman, Richard Drake, during the opening ceremony of Over Basin in September.
See Editorial on page 3 for the story*

Who's who in London IWA

☎ = answerphone

LONDON REGION

President

Illyd Harrington JP, DL

Vice-Presidents

Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti
Arthur Farrand Radley, MBE

Chairman

Roger Squires (020) 7232 0987 ☎
46 Elephant Lane, London, SE16 4JD
Fax (020) 7564 1467
e-mail rogersquires@cwcom.net

Secretary

Toby Parrott 07865 465866
Houseboat *Adriana*, Opposite 59
Blomfield Road, London, W9 2PB

Treasurer

Vernon Draper (020) 8668 5522
(also Middlesex Branch Chairman)

Committee members

Ron Bingham (020) 8855 3693
(Chairman, Planning & Navigation Cttee)
Libby Bradshaw (020) 8874 2787 ☎
David Dent (020) 8691 9190 ☎
Samantha Dent 07957 364 577
(Minutes Secretary)
Tim Lewis (020) 8367 6227 ☎
(N&E London Branch Chairman)
David Llewellyn (020) 8653 4862 ☎
(South London Branch Chairman)
Chris Spencer (020) 8962 0797
Mike Stevens (See page 1 for details)
(Information Officer)
Michael Stimpson (01923) 770 425
Roger Wilkinson (020) 8458 9476 ☎

Official not on the Region Committee

Lewis Phillips (020) 8673 4412 ☎
(London Ring Plaques distribution)

Excalibur

Editor

Mike Stevens See details on front cover.

Editorial Assistant

Andrew Mann (020) 8692 3637
43c Halesworth Road, Lewisham, SE13 7TJ
e-mail andremann@freenetname.co.uk

Advertising manager

Robin Bishop (020) 8452 2632
11 Lichfield Road, Cricklewood, NW2 2RE
(work) 01276-63366 x236

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

Chairman

Vernon Draper (020) 8668 5522
121 St. Andrew's Road, Coulsdon, CR5 3HJ

Secretary

Stu Carrie (01895) 438180
nb Dolphin, High Line Yachting, Packet Boat
Lane, Cowley Peachey, West Drayton, Middx,
UB8 2JS.

Treasurer

Robin Bishop (020) 8452 2632

Committee members

Michael Stimpson (work) (01923) 770 425
(Social Secretary)
Sarah Escott (020) 8560 7347
(Plan/Nav representative)
Rosie Limming (01895) 252 011 ☎
(Sales Officer)

NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH

Chairman

Tim Lewis (020) 8367 6227 ☎
6 Downs Road, Enfield, Middx, EN1 1PA.

Secretary

Roger Wilkinson (020) 8458 9476 ☎
2 Lytton Close, London, N2 0RH

Treasurer

Debbie Lewis (020) 83676227 ☎

Committee members

Colin Edwards (020) 8365 1348
(Plan/Nav Rep)
Alex Nunes (020) 8440 8962

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH

Chairman

David Llewellyn (020) 8653 4862 ☎

Deputy Chairman & Membership Officer

David Young (020) 8654 3054 ☎

Secretary & Publicity Officer

Mike Stevens See details on front cover

Treasurer

Mary Llewellyn (020) 8653 4862 ☎
5 Cornwall Gardens, Tennyson Rd, SE25 5RZ.

Committee members

Libby Bradshaw (020) 8874 2787 ☎
Neville Munro (01322) 613 428
Lesley Pryde (020) 8679 9866
Dorothy Robbie (020) 8857 6367
(Minutes Secretary)

From the Editor

Congratulations....

.... are due to London Region member Martin Ludgate on being one of the first people to be awarded the Richard Bird Medal, a new IWA award which is given to members of the Association whose efforts and support are considered to have brought significant benefit to the Association over a sustained period. The Medal is not limited to a fixed number of awards per year, and it was announced at this year's national AGM in York on 30th September that five awards had been made in this, the first year of the Medal's existence.

Martin has been active in waterway restoration work for 20 years, particularly as an organiser for London WRG. He is currently editor of WRGs newsletter *Navvies*, and a member of IWA's Restoration Committee. Many of us know him as a regular attendee at our Central London Socials, as a lecturer about WRG and as a quizmaster of excellent waterways quizzes. He has also edited the Canalway Cavalcade brochure for a couple of years. At Canalway Cavalcade he has usually been deeply involved in LWRG's decoration of a boat, winning many awards for this activity.

Unlike the other recipients of the Medal, Martin was unable to be in York to receive it from the hands of IWA national Chairman Richard Drake, since he was at Over, where he has been one of the regular workers on the stunning project to restore Over Basin. The official opening of the basin had been the day before the AGM, and it was in that highly appropriate setting that Richard was able to present the medal to Martin.

Martin's fellow-recipients were Millie & Pat Osborne (IWA Stoke Branch), Ron & Barbara Reid (IWA Shrewsbury & Border Counties Branch), Ben Williams (IWA Manchester Branch) and the late Ian Dempster (IWA Kent & East Sussex Branch).

We are particularly pleased to have a London Region member among the first to receive the Medal, since Richard Bird, in whose memory the Medal is awarded, was a member of this Region who died in February 1997. Richard was one of IWA's champion fund-raisers. He ran the Trade Show at a number of National Festivals, and

later at Canalway Cavalcade, and was the organiser of several Draws, including the London Region Draw that was one of the very significant contributors to IWA's Golden Jubilee appeal in 1996. In recognition of Richard's contribution to that appeal, one of the WRG vans bought from the funds raised was dedicated in Richard's memory.

Richard's particular enthusiasm was always raising money for WRG, and he would have been delighted to see a London WRG activist receiving one of the medals named after him.

Our apologies.....

.... for the late arrival of this issue. It was ready for printing in December, then inexplicably went astray between me and the printer! Once I'd discovered that this was not simply a delay in the Christmas post, I was laid up with 'flu.

It's time again

..... for Branch & Region AGMs (see pages 4 & 7). As always we are looking for volunteers to stand for election to the various Committees to continue the work of the Association. New blood is always welcome, and you don't have to take on too onerous a task.

Mike Stevens

COPY DATES

No. 32	Spring 2001	29 th March
No. 33	Summer 2001	3 rd June
No. 34	Winter 2001	26 th October

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 2001

Published by the Region at 3 Norfolk Court,
Norfolk Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1LT. Tel :
(01923) 711114 Fax (01923) 897999

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

ROUTES AND BRANCHES :

Region Committee changes

There have been two changes on the Region Committee. Samantha Dent has been co-opted to the Committee to be our Minutes Secretary, and we have a new Region Chairman, Roger Squires. Roger will be known to many members in the Region for his ten-years' tenure of the office of Commodore of St Pancras Cruising club, for his organisation of many cruises on the Thames Tideway and as a lecturer. He also served for some years on IWA's International Committee.

At the same time as we co-opted Roger to the Committee to take on the Chairmanship, we also resolved that since hardly any of the present committee have faced a contested election, we will all stand down at the next AGM and make our individual decisions whether to offer ourselves for re-election.

At a subsequent meeting, the Committee determined that its size for next year will be nine, consisting of the three Branch Chairmen and six directly-elected members. It is hoped that each member of the Committee will take responsibility for one part of its work. The "shopping list" for these responsibilities includes Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary, Social Secretary, Information Officer (i.e. publicity, publications etc.), Membership Officer and fund-raising.

The notice of the AGM and call for nominations for the election are on page 7.

Bow Locks and the lower Lee

The much-delayed rebuilding of Bow Locks, and various associated structures, is at last finished. One of the paired locks has been converted for two-way operation and the other stanked off. Three Mills Weir and the waterway wall between Bow Creek and the Bow River section of the Lee have been raised so that the tide is now kept out of the Bow River, the Limehouse Cut and that part of the Bow Back Rivers which are at the same level. Regular readers will recall that the purpose of this work has been to stop any more silt being deposited in those waters by the tide.

There is a lot of existing silt that needs to be got rid of, and BW started work on this task even before the rebuilding of the locks

was complete. We discovered this when a convoy of boats heading from the Three Mills Rally to the "National" at Waltham Abbey had to wait for a break in the dredging work. When one boater wondered aloud whether they couldn't have chosen a more convenient few days to do the dredging, another cynic remarked "Dredging has not only to be done, it must also be seen to be done."

Of course, the dredging of the Bow Back Rivers can't be done out of BW's main budget, since it is a remainder waterway and therefore needs outside funding, as reported in the last issue of *Excalibur*. IWA North & East London Branch has started a campaign to find a source of such funding, and they announced this at the Three Mills Rally (see report on page 6.) The campaign was also mentioned by Richard Drake, IWA national Chairman, at the opening ceremony of the National Waterways Festival a week after the Three Mills event.

Floating Pennywort

This is a pernicious weed that has infested the lower part of the Lee and the Bow Back Rivers. It is not a native species and was first imported to the UK for use in garden ponds. It is thought that the current infestation arises from people who have found it growing too fast for their ponds and have thrown away the surplus.

The huge green mass of the plant grows up to 20 cm (8 ins) a day and takes so much oxygen out of the water that fish can suffocate to death. Other plants don't stand a chance; Pennywort just grows over and around them.

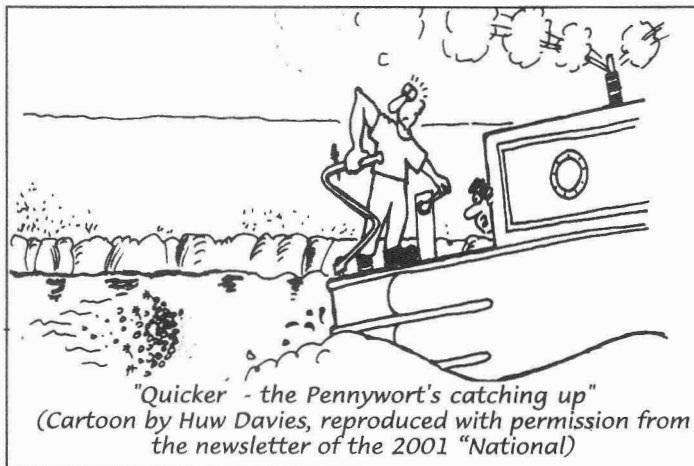
On the Bow Back Rivers, mud-banks that were totally clear in late June were fully covered by the weed in August.

Pennywort is bad for boats too, getting caught in the prop. Tried pulling it out of the water? One square metre weighs 80 kilos (over 12 stone)!

Boaters at the "National" were advised to check on leaving the Lee to ensure, as far as they could, that they had no Pennywort caught on their prop or fenders, to minimise the risk of spreading the infestation.

BW and EA commissioned some environmental consultants to report on how best to deal with it, and we now hear that

Region, Branch and Navigation news



they have recommended physical removal and maceration. Since "physical removal" appears to mean dredging, this is good news for our campaign for the dredging of the Bow Back Rivers (see the previous article).

Paddington Basin

Our Planning & Navigation Committee has seen the drawings for the next stage of planning permission for the developments here. Some aspects of the buildings, particularly the tall tower blocks, will certainly be very controversial, but we felt that with respect to the effect on the water-space (which is all that our brief covers) we had no real worries. Details of how the water-space will be used are the responsibility of BW rather than the developers and we don't yet know full details.

But what is clear is that there will be plenty of public access to the waterside, including walkways all round the basin and a new main entrance to Paddington station right onto the quayside. There will also be vistas through to the water from the streets outside, and shops and cafes to bring the public in. All these we see as major gains which offset some of the minor objections we find to some details of the plan.

While some people might not like the towers, your Editor's personal opinion is that at the least they are unobjectionable, and the really big one on the Paddington Station site looks like a very distinguished piece of architecture. My feeling on seeing the drawings was that

the development will provide some excellent new townscape, with the two biggest towers facing each other down the length of the Basin. There are few existing buildings of real interest on the waterside, and the one that is, an old loading canopy, is to be retained on a different part of the site. So I welcome the prospect of a revitalised Basin in a twenty-first century idiom.

Plan/Nav's watch on the evolving plans for Paddington Basin is led by Colin Edwards, our Planning Officer for that part of London, whose 'phone number is on page 2.

Barging around

Your Editor's annual sailing barge charter for South London Branch this year also involved folk from the "cutweb" internet waterways community and from St Pancras Cruising Club. We took the Thames Barge Sailing Club's *Pudge* from Maldon for the weekend of 16/17 September.

The petrol crisis caused some cancellations both among our group and among those TBSC members due to sail on the club's other barge, *Centaur*. We decided to join together and just sail one barge, *Pudge*.

Despite adverse weather which delayed our start on Saturday morning, we had some excellent sailing under the expert tuition of Jim Lawrence who has been skipping barges for 50 years. Saturday saw us going up the Colne towards Wivenhoe, and that evening we lay off Brightlingsea, and those who wished to went ashore to the pub. Sunday saw some very different sailing in light breezes, back up the Blackwater to Maldon.

This year's charter is booked for the weekend of July 20 - 22 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon). The cost isn't yet finalised, but anyone who would like to register a preliminary interest should contact Mike Stevens (details on page 1)

Three Mills Rally, 19 & 20 August

39 boats took part in this year's Three Mills Rally which was organised jointly by IWA North & East London Branch and St Pancras Cruising Club.

One feature on the Saturday was an attempt to navigate the semi-tidal loop of the Bow Back Rivers. They timed their attempt to make the best use of the tide topping up the Rivers to well above the maintained level, as they knew that the amount of silt was going to give them difficulties. Two coracles and a canoe successfully completed the loop, but Dave Bryant's cruiser *Ursa Minor* was defeated by the combination of shallows and weed.. Little wonder that a campaign has now started, to get the Bow Back Rivers dredged again! That campaign was officially launched at the Rally. Read more about this on page 4.

Sunny weather helped the three organised towpath walks. These included a walk along the Bow Back Rivers for the boaters whose boats were unable to cruise there and one of the regular walks organised jointly by London IWA and *The Original London Walks*. The Lower Lea Project's *Pride of Lee* ran boat trips from the rally site. On Sunday, the cruise via Limehouse and along the Tideway to the Thames Barrier was well attended.

The land-based part of the rally was somewhat smaller than usual, as contractors were still occupying some of the site, building a flood barrier from Bow Locks to Three Mills and altering Bow Locks. (Once again there's more news of this on page 4.) Nevertheless, a number of organisations and traders and a craft market had stands there, and the House Mill Museum was open.

Three Mills is also well known as the location for the Channel Four TV *Big Brother* series which was filming on the Friday night, so there were big crowds passing through the site which gave the event some useful publicity.

Saturday evening brought a happy combination of barbecue and folk singing. A prize for a combination of activities including a waterways quiz was awarded in memory of the late Alan Russell, who regularly organised the Three Mills Rally in previous years. It was won by a joint entry from Dorothy Robbie and Mike Stevens, almost accidentally as they hadn't realised the quiz had a prize! The trophy, a horse's nose-bowl splendidly-decorated by Tim Whitlock, will be on display at various events during the year on *Tarn* and *Felis Catus II* on different occasions. It was nice that the trophy in Alan's memory was won by two friends of his, but then just about everybody at the evening's activities had been a friend of Alan's.

We expect that next year's Three Mills Rally will be as big, probably larger. The need to campaign for dredging of the Bow Back rivers will be just as important - not least because Floating Pennywort is now well established there, and is escaping in quantity onto the River Lee.

Roger Wilkinson & Mike Stevens

Since the above was written, it has been announced that next year's Three Mills Rally will be on the weekend of 4th & 5th August. Its usual organisers, IWA North & East London Branch and St Pancras Cruising Club will be joined for this year by the Russell Newbury Register.

Good news for the London Canal Museum

Some time ago a firm of consultants were employed to advise the museum on a major refurbishment of its displays. Their recommendations were far-reaching and were costed at around £100,000 for the museum's ground floor alone. In January it was announced that a grant of £44,800 from the Heritage Lottery fund meant that with the previously announced grants of £44,000 from London's Waterway Partnership and £5,000 from the London Museums Agency and the Museum's own voluntary funds, the fundraising had been achieved. Congratulations are due to those whose hard work has achieved these grants.

As I write work is about to begin on this major refurbishment of the ground floor of the museum. More information, and a picture of the proposed layout, can be found on the museum's web site at <http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk/news.htm>.

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 8 pm on Thursday 19 April 2001 at *The Lamb*, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1 (se map on page 9)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2000 AGM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Report(s) of the Chairman and Secretary
5. Report of the Treasurer and presentation of accounts
6. Adoption of accounts
7. Statement of Committee size
8. Election of Committee members
9. Appointment of Hon. Accountant
10. Address by Tina Warwick (IWA Council)
11. Any other business

The AGM will be followed by an up-date by Michael Render on the *London's Waterway Partnership* SRB project.

NOTICE OF REGION COMMITTEE ELECTION

The current maximum allowed size of the Region Committee is nine, consisting of the three Branch Chairmen and six directly elected members. All six elected posts are up for election this year (see article of page 4). All candidates must be paid-up members of the Region at the time of election, and must be proposed and seconded in writing (with their own signature indicating their willingness to stand). Nominations must be received by the Region Secretary, Toby Parrott (Houseboat *Adriana*, Opposite 59 Blomfield Road, London, W9 2PB) no later than 5 April.

BRANCH AGMs AND ELECTIONS

The Annual General Meetings of the three Branches will be held at the following times and places :

South London Branch	8.00 pm on Friday 23 February 2001 at The Royal Tavern, Sidcup Road, Mottingham, SE9 (Nearest station, Mottingham B)
Middlesex Branch	8.00 pm on Tuesday 13 March 2001 at Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge (nearest tube station, Uxbridge)
North & East London Branch	8.00 pm on Tuesday 20 March 2001 at Millfield Arts Centre, Silver St, Edmonton, N18 (nearest station, Silver Street BR)

In each case the agenda will be identical to that for the Region AGM except that the speaker at item 10 will be the Region Chairman, Roger Squires.

Nominations for election to each of the Branch Committees must be received by the relevant Branch Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the AGM. All candidates must be paid-up members of the Branch at the time of election, and must be proposed and seconded in writing (with their own signature indicating their willingness to stand).

ON THE METREAU : news and



Canalway Cavalcade 2001

2001 marks the bicentenary of the completion of the Paddington Branch, so it is hardly surprising that the theme of Canalway Cavalcade will be *200 years of the canal to Paddington*.

There have been some changes in the organisation of the event this year, which has been given national status. IWA Council has appointed Doug Beard as Chairman of the event, and he will be responsible directly to Council. Doug is Chairman of IWA South-East Region and has attended Canalway Cavalcade a number of times, for the last two years as a boater, and he and his wife Molly have helped at the event in various ways.

Contacts for the 2001 event are as follows:

Chairman,
Doug Beard (01702) 554 492

Boat entries
Dave Dent (020) 8691 9190

Trade Show
Dorothy Robbie (020) 8857 6367

Local & community publicity
Jason Debney (020) 8332 0750

Press & media
Mike Stevens (020) 8674 9387

Central London Socials

These continue to be held at *The Lamb* (see map opposite). Dates and speakers are listed in the *Coming Events* pages.

We recently heard a particularly interesting talk by Tom Chaplin, Heritage Consultant to BW, about *Current approaches to BW's heritage*. The talk covered such interesting topics as whether BW should go back to painting lock gates as they were in previous times rather than the standard black-and-white. This, and other aspects of his talk, were illustrated by slides taken while he was on canal holidays as a child in the 1950s and 60s. It was interesting to see Shroppe lock gates in grey (which your Editor can just about remember), and Trent & Mersey balance beams in alternating squares of black and white.

Tom Chaplin also posed the problem of deciding what particular period of history one should seek to reproduce if one wants to take a section of canal away from modern standardisation. Where painting is concerned, he also asked how we can decide what colours were used before the widespread use of colour photography.

Canals Study Day

On 22 November your Editor, along with Arthur Farrand Radley (one of our Region Vice-Presidents) had the pleasure of taking part in a Canals Study Day organised by BW Heritage team and The Georgian Group, at the latter's HQ in Fitzroy Square.

Several of the speakers came from the BW Heritage team, including one chap who told us about how BW is training its maintenance staff, including lengthsman, in the use of traditional methods and materials. The speaker I found most interesting was Roger Cragg, convener of the Waterways group of PHEW, the Panel for Historical Engineering Works. PHEW was set up by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Roger Cragg's talk was about how his panel assesses individual waterway

gossip of London's waterways.

structures and entire waterways for their significance within the development of engineering.

It was a very worthwhile day, and I was very grateful to Farrand who, as a member of the Georgian Group, had arranged for me to take part.

Reader's letter

Dear Sir,

May I suggest an alternative to orthodox flood control systems, namely dehydration works to be built upstream of problem areas.

Dehydrated floodwater will take up much less space and can be stored and transported under cover. Where there's a drought it can be rehydrated to provide water where & when needed.

In fact we could have an export industry to Saudi Arabia. The only problem in shipping it is keeping it dry; dampness will rehydrate it and sink the ship.

Yours till weir all locked up,

Helen Highwater
Croydon Canal Restoration Group

Book Review

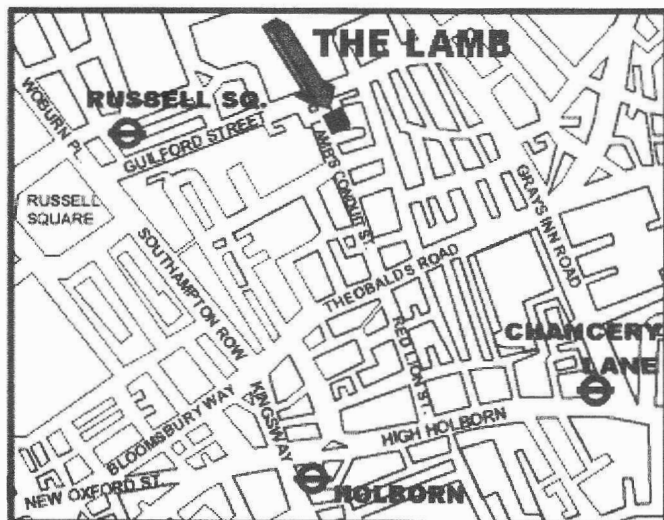
Paddling to Jerusalem by David Aaronovitch
Published by Fourth Estate, hardback, 316 pp
£16.99

The book tells the story of how its author, a well-known political journalist, planned and made a voyage round Britain by canoe. I first came across this project in the planning stage, when David was seeking advice from the waterways internet group, and I (of course) put in my two penn'orth. It was through that group that David made contact with the company who supplied his canoe, thanks to help from the late Ray Dunford, who will be remembered by many *Exalibur* readers.

It was with considerable interest, therefore, that I bought the book on publication. It was not quite what I was expecting, but an excellent read despite that. The rivers and canals he travels are the setting, rather than the subject, of his book. They form the context for his thoughts about England, Englishness, his own Jewishness and how his family fits into the history of England.

Don't buy the book if you're looking for a canoeist's guide to the inland waterways. Do buy it for a good, thoughtful read. It's so well written that I had difficulty putting it down.

Mike Stevens



HOW TO GET TO THE REGION'S CENTRAL LONDON SOCIALS

The nearest tube station is Russell Square.

If you are coming by car, please note that the middle section of Lamb's Conduit Street is pedestrianised. Access to *The Lamb* by car has to be from the Guilford Street end

2000 London WRG Digs

Or so it might seem! Since several LWRGies saw in the new year on the Cotswold Canals, we have had probably our most intensive period of digging ever, with virtually every weekend seeing either a London WRG dig, or several of us attending other digs around the country.

Our first official dig of the year was at Basingstoke, where we are continuing to work on the installation of a back pumping scheme that will alleviate the current water shortages on the canal. Work included bricklaying around two of the new overflow weirs, hand digging out a third one, and sealing a breach at the head of one of the locks. Two further digs over the summer saw the site and access for the new backpumping station cleared of vegetation, and sealing of a major leak through the upper wingwall of one of the locks at St Johns that required considerable excavation by hand to find it.

February and April digs saw us on the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal at Over, the second of which was arranged at very short notice when our intended worksite on the Wey and Arun Canal became flooded. At the end of March we also supported the BCN Cleanup, which was a far too successful event: we cleared the section of the Dudley No. 2 Canal of the usual collection of rubbish by the end of the Saturday, and so spent Sunday repairing an inflatable dam which we have the use of and cleaning all our tools.

May saw London WRG at Barnsley after a very long absence. The main job was to first drain, then assess and repair the forebay of the top lock on the Elsecar Branch. Work also included painting the trip boat, and sorting a very large supply of stone for future restoration works.

We have also supported three digs on the Montgomery Canal, preparing a new site for extensive attention by two Canal Camps this summer. Here a large brick overflow weir needs to be repaired and the 80 yard long stone built tailrace that leads from it to a culvert under the canal needs to be completely rebuilt. During the first weekend we cleared the site of vegetation that was weakening the structure, before returning to create a temporary storage compound and examine the extent of the damage. Our

third visit was as part of WRG Works!, WRG's 30th Birthday celebrations, where we cleared over half a mile of dense scrub on the unfortunately named Pant Dry Section.

This year has also seen London WRGies having a huge presence on site at Over on the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal supporting weekends and week-long camps. As well as the work on site, all the behind the scenes work required to run WRG's involvement in a project of this size have been carried out by members of London WRG.

The immense task of constructing a canal basin and associated features by the incredibly tight legal deadline of the end of August was daunting, and many doubted it was possible. Not only did we complete all the work ten days ahead of schedule, but the quality of work produced has far surpassed both the developer's and our own expectations. Needless to say, the formal reopening was very well attended by over 3000 people.

Martin Ludgate was presented with the Richard Bird Medal during the opening ceremony, which was especially appropriate considering the contribution he has made this year at Over.

The following weekend, we succeeded in making it to the Wey and Arun Canal, on our third attempt of the year. This dig also came very close to being rained-off: the current site, Rowner Lock, is right beside the flood-prone River Arun, and has very poor access across several frequently water-logged fields. We resorted to boating to and from the site after particularly heavy rain on the Friday meant we couldn't use the landrover to cross the fields. Despite a slow start to the weekend, we made considerable progress clearing the compound, now that works there have almost finished, and the length from Rowner to Newbridge of fallen trees.

When not actually digging (it occasionally happens!) we continue to hold regular social evenings in central London, though we are currently "between" venues.

New volunteers are always welcome on all our digs and social events. For more information please contact Tim Lewis on 020 83676227 or visit our website www.danevans.co.uk/lwrg.

Marcus Jones

IWA London Region 200 Club

The club was formed some years ago to help fund the running of the Region, so that other sources of income could be devoted more fully to campaigning and donations to waterways causes. At the moment the Club is well below its target of 200 members. If you've not yet joined, why not do so now? If you are a member, you can always take out an extra membership or two!

Members of the Club must be IWA members aged 18 or over. The annual subscription to the club is £12, payable by annual cheque or standing order (either for £12 annually or £1 monthly). A member may hold more than one membership of the Club. Prizes are awarded by a draw which takes place six times a year. When the club has its full quota of 200 members, each draw awards four prizes of £100, £50, £25, £25. When the Club has less than 200 members, prizes are reduced so that the ratio of prizes to subscriptions remains the same. The present officers of the Club are : Chairman: Mike Stevens; Secretary: Venon Draper; Treasurer: Michael Stimpson. Contact details for all of these are on page 2. All queries should be addressed to Vernon Draper.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To the Officers,

I wish to become a member of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 Club. I have completed and enclose the standing order / enclose a cheque as payment for membership(s) at £12 each.

Full name

Address

..... Postcode

'Phone (day) (evening).....

I am a member of the Inland Waterways Association and I agree to be bound by the rules of the London Region 200 Club.

Signed..... Date.....

Cheques should be made payable to "IWA London Region 200 Club"

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To : The Manager Bank/Building Society (Sort code - -)

Address.....

..... Postcode

Please pay to Barclays Bank plc Islington and Camden Business Centre, Sort code 20-44-86 for the credit of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 Club Account no. 50505412, quoting reference(*) as follows :

(ANNUAL OPTION) the sum of £..... (..... pounds only) with immediate effect and on the first day of (*) each year thereafter until further notice from me.

(MONTHLY OPTION) the sum of £..... (..... pounds only) with immediate effect and on the first day of each month thereafter until further notice from me.

Please debit my account in the name of

Account no, accordingly

Signature Date

(*) will be inserted by Officers when processing.

The two halves of the form should be sent to Vernon Draper at the address on page 2.

Welcome home - to the moorings you've always wanted

Available

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

Friendly

At last you have a choice!

Receptive

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

Accessible

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

Convenient

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

Handy

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

Relaxing

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

Peaceful

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

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

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

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

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

**Arthur Bennett
Marina Manager
(Mooring Enquiry IWA1)
Willowtree Marina
West Quay Drive
Yeading Middx UB4 9TB
Tel: 0181 841 6585**

More Government cash for the waterways

Two recent Government announcements tell us that both BW and the EA are to benefit from increased Government funding. This provides yet more evidence that the Government is at last coming round to views for which IWA has been campaigning for many years.

These announcements follow an earlier one (reported in the Summer 1999 issue of *Excalibur*) that BW would receive an extra £8 million of grant per year for at least three years, the money being earmarked for those aspects of the maintenance backlog which have public safety implications. At the same time some debts (thought to be about £20 million) from BW to the Government were written off.

That 1999 announcement was very welcome to IWA, but we were concerned at the same time about the need for similar support for the navigational function of the Environment Agency, where problems on the Thames, in particular, were upsetting our members and other boaters.

Since then 27th June of this year brought the Government's white paper *Waterways for Tomorrow*, launched at Willowtree Marina on the Paddington Branch. This paper said a lot of things that we were very pleased to hear, as we ourselves had been saying them for years. These included greater recreational use of and enhanced access to the waterways for all, useful planning guidelines, encouragement for more freight and passenger traffic, a recognition of the work of the voluntary movement and the potential for future restoration, encouragement of partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors, and more co-operation between BW and EA.

The White Paper was reported in the Summer 2000 edition of *Excalibur*, and welcomed by IWA and other user groups.

Speaking at IWA's National Waterways Festival at Waltham Abbey in August, BW

Chairman George Greener challenged the Government to put its money where its mouth is (except that he phrased it more tactfully). These new announcements show them beginning to do just that.

On 5th October, the Waterways Minister, Lord Whitty, put some flesh on the phrase "at least three years" of the 1999 statement. For the year 2000/2001, the last of the three-year period of the earlier tranche, the figure of £8 million will rise to £9.75 million as part of the Chancellor's Spending Review 2000, and for each of the next two years, the additional grant will be of £9 million.

The new funding is not earmarked for a specific purpose as was the previous batch Lord Whitty said:

"This new funding demonstrates our commitment to British Waterways' continuing success. I especially support their efforts to tackle the substantial maintenance backlog - an unfortunate result of decades of under-investment. I expect that the money we are providing today will help British Waterways to cut this backlog even further."

Less than a fortnight later, on 18th October, the Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, announced extra funding to support the EA's work in navigation - £1 million to be spent this year and a further £1 million for 2000/2001. Among projects to be funded out of the current year's tranche are the replacement of laybys at Cleeve and Mapledurham locks on the Thames.

While we have every reason to celebrate the changed attitude of the Government, we must not fall into the trap of thinking the campaign is over. None of the welcome changes is backed by new primary legislation, and so would be easy for a future Government to go back on.

Waterways events in and around London.

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

FEBRUARY 2001

Throughout the Month	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. <i>John Nash and The Prince Regent</i> . The construction of the Regent's Canal. Exhibition continues until 1 st April 2001.
Sunday 19 th 2.30pm	IWA LONDON with <i>LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK</i> . The Regent's Canal. King's Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station (by taxi rank).
Tuesday 20 th 8pm	IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL. <i>Heading South, down the Saone and Rhone</i> by Roger Wilkinson.
Wednesday 21 st 8pm	LONDON WRG SOCIAL.
Friday 23 rd 8pm	IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT MOTTINGHAM. BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & round-up of matters of current interest.

MARCH 2001

Throughout the Month	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. <i>John Nash and the Prince Regent</i> . The construction of the Regent's Canal. Exhibition continues until 1st April 2001.
Thursday 1 st 7 for 7.30pm	LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Lecture: <i>Bringing the Boatmen to God</i> by Dr Wendy Freer. (The work of the Boatmen's Missions).
Weekend 3rd & 4 th	LONDON WRG DIG on the Thames & Severn Canal.
Sunday 4 th 2.30pm	LONDON IWA with <i>LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK</i> . The Regent's Canal. Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube station.
Wednesday 7 th 8pm	IWA KENT & EAST SUSSEX BRANCH. Branch AGM and members' slides of the IWA National Festival at Waltham Abbey. At the Social Club, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent.
Thursday 8 th 7:45 for 8pm	IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH SOCIAL : Branch AGM and members' slides
Monday 12 th 8pm	IWA SOUTH-EAST REGION AGM at the <i>New Inn</i> , Roydon, near Harlow.
Tuesday 13 th 7.30 for 8pm	IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH. BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & Quiz.
Wednesday 14 th 8pm	IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT SOUTH NORWOOD. <i>History of the Crystal Palace</i> by Ian Bevan.
Wednesday 14 th 8pm	LONDON WRG SOCIAL

- Thursday 15 7.30 for 8pm IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL SOCIAL. *The Millenium Stone Project* by Philip Bowen.
- Sunday 18th 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK*. The Regent's Canal. Mile End to Limehouse. Meet at Mile End tube station.
- Tuesday 20th 8pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL. BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING plus Mike Stevens : *The Bow Back Rivers*.
- Weekend 24th & 25th LONDON WRG CLEAN UP WEEKEND on the Birmingham Canal Navigations. To be confirmed.
- Friday 30th 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH AT MOTTINGHAM. *The Impossible Dream (Part 2)* by Richard Thomas.

APRIL 2001

- Sunday 1st 2:30 pm LONDON IWA with *LONDON WALKS. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK* : The Regent's Canal : Paddington to Camden. Meet at Warwick Avenue tube station.
- Thursday 5th 7 for 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. *Ice Essential* by Robin Weir. The use of ice at home and work in Georgian and Victorian London
- Tuesday 10th 8 pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL. *Meet your BW Regional Manager* with Mark Bensted.
- Wednesday 11th 8 pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL AT SOUTH NORWOOD : *The Oxford Canal* by Mike Stevens.
- Thursday 8th 7:45 for 8pm IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH SOCIAL : *Chinese Waterways* by Stuart Antill
- Sunday 15th 2:30 pm LONDON IWA with *LONDON WALKS : GUIDED TOWPATH WALK* : The Regent's Canal : King's Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station, by taxi rank.
- Thursday 19 7:30 for 8pm IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL : REGION A.G.M. & up-date on London Waterways Partnership SRB project by Michael Render.
- Saturday 21st 7 for 7.30pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL. Film Show, followed by fish & chips supper, £5.95 per head, at St Pancras Cruising Club, Camley St (behind St Pancras station). Contact Roger Wilkinson for confirmation.
- Friday 27th 8 pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL AT MOTTINGHAM : *Puffing through the Glen* by Roger Squires.

Venue details & contact people

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	<i>The Lamb</i> Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1 See map on page 9 (Nearest tube Russell Square)	Roger Wilkinson (020) 8458 9476
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH (UXBRIDGE)	Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge	Michael Stimpson (work) (01923) 770425
IWA N & E LONDON BRANCH	Millfield Arts Centre, Silver St., Edmonton, N18. (near the Great Cambridge Rd. junction. ⁵ / ₈ mile west of Silver Street BR station).	Roger Wilkinson (020) 8458 9476
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH (SOUTH NORWOOD)	S.Norwood Conservative Club 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).	Neville Munro (01322) 613 428
LONDON IWA / LONDON WALKS TOWPATH WALKS	As listed. Each about 2 hours. £5.00 (concessions £3.50).	London Walks (020) 7624 3978
LONDON WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP	Meeting point for digs is usually Waterloo Station 7 pm on Friday to travel to site. Socials the <i>Spread Eagle</i> pub 79 Grosvenor Rd SW1. (Pimlico tube station)	Lesley McFadyen (020) 8693 3266
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 £2.50.	(0171) 713 0836
IWA CHELMSFORD BRANCH	Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford	Molly Beard (01702) 554 492
IWA KENT& EAST SUSSEX BRANCH	Venue varies - see event details	Sid Sharman (01795) 872839

*Type-set by Mike Stevens in Lucida Casual and Arial using Pagemaker software
and printed by Leighton Printing Company, 15 Palmer Place, London N7 8DH*
