

Excalibur



The Inland
Waterways
Association

THE LONDON NEWSLETTER
OF THE I. W. A.

NUMBER 40, JANUARY 2004

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The winning team in the waterways quiz at the Region / N&E London Branch Christmas Social. Left to right, Dorothy Robbie, Ben Scott, Olive Bingham and Ron Bingham, all from South London Branch. See the story on page 6.

Photo by Mike Stevens

WHO'S WHO IN LONDON IWA

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Robin Bishop (020) 8452 2632
(Minutes Secretary)

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Excalibur

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From the Editor

Happy New Year to all our readers.

But what will 2004 bring us?

No sooner did I publish congratulations to BW on managing its water supply efficiently and keeping its canals open over the long dry summer, than the press carried gloomy prognostications of drought for next summer - although the rumours I hear about the state of BW's reservoirs are a bit more hopeful than some of the things the Environment Agency has been saying.

From my editorial chair, several things stand out in prospect for 2004.

The year starts with the London Boat Show at a new venue in Docklands and with a major Inland Waterways feature for the first time for many years and some visiting boats.

President will visit London for the first time for a few years, coming to Canalway Cavalcade, then on to the London Canal Museum for a week before making its first trip on the Thames tideway, where we intend escorting it with a flotilla of boats - watch the Region website for details of all these.

This year the "National" returns to the Midlands at Burton-on-Trent, which reminds Wendy & me that we've not done any BCN boating for several years - so that's our summer spoken for.

The IWA year

At a formal level, IWA's organisational "new year" doesn't come for another three months, with the season of Branch & Region Annual General Meetings, of which the formal notices are on pages 4 & 5. These are important to the working of the Association, so I hope that as many members as possible will put the relevant dates in their diaries and come to their Branch and Region AGMs. The formal business of the meeting is usually fairly brief, and it's followed by another more interesting activity.

And why not consider standing for election to either your Branch or the Region Committee? Some of our stalwarts (myself included) have been serving for a long time, and we need new faces alongside the old ones to keep our thinking fresh, up-to-date and in tune

with our members. All our Branch Committees will have slots to fill, and it would be good to see all the elections contested.

A good "catch"

I'm very pleased that Eugene Baston has agreed to be the speaker after the Region AGM in April. He was recently appointed as BW's (national) Customer Relations Manager and so is well placed to answer the questions we have about BW.

Eugene was formerly one of BW's Press Officers and in that capacity participated on behalf of his employers in the various waterways-related fora on the internet - I'm glad to say that he still does after his promotion. So those of us who hang out in those places have got to know Eugene pretty well, and have found him refreshingly open about BW's thinking. He's even been known to say "We may have got that one wrong".

I'm sure we can expect some honest and open answers from Eugene. But he has pointed out that he can't be expected to know off-the-cuff answers to every question we might want to ask, so would like advance notice of the questions so that he can have the correct information at his disposal when answering them.

Good boating / towpath walking / whatever for 2004.

Mike Stevens

COPY DATES

No.41	Spring 2004	28 th Feb
No.42	Summer 2004	15 th June

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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.

BRANCH & REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meetings of the London Region of the Inland Waterways Association, and of its three Branches will take place at the following places and times:-

South London Branch, 8pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2004 at East Croydon United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove

Middlesex Branch, 8pm on Tuesday 9th March 2004 at Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge.

North & East London Branch, 7:30pm on Wednesday 17th March 2004 at Springfield Marina, Spring Hill, E5

London Region, 8pm on Thursday 15th April 2004 at *The Lamb*, Lamb's Conduit St, WC1

See page 16 or the Region web site for more particulars of each venue.

AGENDA (Branch meetings)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2003 AGM and any Extraordinary General Meetings held subsequently
3. Report(s) from Officers
4. Presentation of accounts
5. Business of the meeting notified under byelaw 40 ★
6. Notice of Committee size
7. Election to fill any vacancies on the Committee
8. Address by Region Chairman

In each case the formal AGM will be followed by another activity as listed in the *Coming Events* listing on pages 13-16.

AGENDA (Region meeting)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2003 AGM
3. Report(s) from Officers
4. Presentation of accounts
5. Business of the meeting notified under byelaw 40 ★

The following motion has been notified :

London Region calls upon Council to prepare an amendment to Bye-law 39(a) to add to the items prescribed for the Agenda of Branch and Region AGMs the item "(viii)

Questions to the Officers and any members of IWA Council present".

Proposed by Ian Ferguson, seconded by Mike Stevens.

6. Notice of Committee size
7. Election to fill any vacancies on the Committee
8. Questions to Region Officers and any members of IWA Council present

The formal AGM will be followed by **"Questions to British Waterways"**, which will be answered by Eugene Baston, BW's (national) Customer Relations Director. Eugene has asked for advance notification of questions to be asked, in order that he can answer them properly. Please send questions you would like to ask to Mike Stevens (contact details on the front page) by 5th April.

★ **NOTE** : Byelaw 40 provides that any member of a region or branch may propose business to appear on the agenda of an AGM of their region or branch, provided that notice of such business is delivered in writing to the secretary of the region or branch no later than 120 days before that meeting. If any such items are received, a revised Agenda for the relevant meeting will be in a Branch Newsletter which is due to be published before the AGMs.

BRANCH & REGION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations for election to a Branch or Region Committee must be received by the appropriate Secretary (details on page 2) at least two weeks before the date of the AGM. All candidates and their proposers must be paid-up members of the relevant Branch or Region, and the candidate must indicate his/her willingness to stand. Nominations and indications of willingness must be sent either in writing or by e-mail.

All elected members of a Region or Branch Committee who have held office for a term of three years have to retire, as does any member co-opted during the committee since the last AGM. Members in either category are eligible for re-election, provided that they are duly nominated as detailed above.

The particulars for each Committee are as follows :-

	Middlesex Branch	North & East London Branch	South London Branch	London Region
Secretary	Robin Bishop <i>Contact details on page 2</i>	Tim Lewis <i>Contact details on page 2</i>	Mike Stevens <i>Contact details on page 1</i>	Mike Stevens <i>Contact details on page 1</i>
Deadline for nominations	23 Feb	3 March	18 Feb	1 Apr
Current max.no. of elected members ★	9	9	9	6
Current vacancies	1	1	2	0
Members completing 3 years in post	none	Colin Edwards Tim Lewis	David Llewellyn Dorothy Robbie	Mike Stevens
Members co-opted since the 2003 AGM	Mick Eade (representing Hillingdon CC)	Annie Chipchase	none	none
No. of posts to be filled ★★	2	4	4	1

★ In addition to the elected members, the Region Chairman is *ex officio* a member of each Branch Committee, and each Branch Chairman is *ex officio* a member of the Region Committee.

★★ These figures may vary if a Branch or Region Committee decides to change the size of the relevant Committee. Any such decision will be incorporated in a revised Agenda to be included in the Branch Newsletter due to be published before the AGM. In the case of the Region Committee, the number might also change if an elected member of the Committee is appointed a Branch Chairman.

ROUTES AND BRANCHES : Region, Branch and navigation news

Christmas Socials

As last year, North & East London Branch combined forces with the Region's central London social for a quiz and auction at the Pirate Castle in Camden Town. This year the quiz was set by your Editor, and won by the team pictured on page 1). Tim Lewis presided over the auction, with Ian Israel as his clerk. A substantial sum was raised for Region funds. Many thanks to members who donated good to the auction.

A few days earlier, South London Branch held its Christmas Dinner at the *County Arms*, Wandsworth Common, at which we were pleased to welcome some visitors for Middlesex Branch. An excellent meal was enjoyed by all, as was the singing of our entertainers, Dave Bryant and Linda. Another quiz was won by Roger Squires (not for the first time), and a raffle raised over £40 for Branch funds.

N & E London Branch Chairman

Tim Lewis has stood down as Chairman of North & East London Branch, a post he has held for three years. Marion Riley has taken over as Chairman, with Tim replacing her in the dual rôle of Branch Secretary and Deputy Chairman. Relevant contact details are on page 2. Please note that Tim's address has changed. The Branch is grateful to Tim for the work he has done as Chairman since he took the post at short notice on the sudden death of Alan Russell.

Regent's Canal stoppages

Just before Christmas, BW announced the following:

As a result of requests from the boating groups in London to provide a passage to and from the forthcoming Boat Show in Docklands, the following will apply to the programmed stoppages on the Regent's Canal for the remainder of this stoppage season.

Commercial Road Lock will remain closed until Friday 16th January 2004.

Acton's Lock- new bottom gates: closed 19th January - 6th February 2004.

City Road Lock - new bottom gates: closed 16th February - 5th March 2004.

Sturts Lock - lock inspection: closed 8th March - 13th March 2004.

We are sorry for any inconvenience that may be caused. If you have any problems please call: 020 7308 9930 or 020 8571 8900.

National Clean-up

This event, when all IWA Branches are asked to arrange some sort of "clean-up" event on the Waterways, will this year be confined to a single weekend, 27th & 28th March. North & East London Branch will be active on the Lee Navigation, Middlesex Branch on the Slough Arm and South London Branch on the Thames..

Canalway Cavalcade

This year as ever, Canalway Cavalcade will be at Little Venice during the May Day Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday 1st to Monday 3rd May).

The event's theme this year will be *Steaming Ahead*, which ties into two things. The date of the event falls within the national Museums & Galleries Month, whose theme for the year is *Transport* and which more specifically celebrates two hundred years of steam-powered transport.

As part of the event's marking of that theme, we shall welcome the steam narrowboat *President*, which hasn't visited us for a few years. *President* is owned by the Black Country Museum, whose Director, Ian Walden will open the event.

We still have a few vacancies on our planning team, as well as needing volunteers for a range of tasks during the event itself. If you are willing to help in either capacity, please contact Libby Bradshaw (details on page 2).

For further details of Canalway Cavalcade, see the event's web site at www.waterways.org.uk/cavalcade.htm (from which you can obtain a downloadable boat entry form), or ring the Canalway Cavalcade enquiry line on 07753 635006.

FROM THE REGION CHAIRMAN :

Roger Squires

This is the time of year when we all stand back, consider what we have done in the past year, realise, that we have not done half what we had expected to have done, and start to plan how we can get more completed in the New Year. In many ways that is exactly how I feel.

We in the IWA have really suffered an anti-climax this past year, after all the Re-openings and Openings of Waterways in 2002. Tranche 2 schemes are progressing slowly, with rumbles of potential funders tightening their belts not far below the surface. In this connection, I fear we all will need individually to lobby more, make our case more strongly, and actually fight our corner against all the other deserving causes in the coming year.

The same is true locally, where such national projects as the Olympics Bid and the regeneration of the lower Lea Valley are coming thick and fast. Our Planning Committee has been in overload during the past year, and looks as if it will be even busier in the next. Apart from the Olympics Bid, which could transform the Bow Back Rivers, the plans for City Road Basin are now coming out. Likewise, the latest proposals for Docklands, Brentford and elsewhere all require careful review if we are not to lose the available/usable waterspace as it turns into sterile landscaped plots. Just recently, plans were submitted for the redevelopment of Waterloo Wharf at Uxbridge. This was once the F.M.C. Coal Wharf and one of the original wharf buildings is still there. It would be a great pity if that went. As also would the loss of yet another Wharf for residential purposes.

In many ways, development can be a two edged sword. On one hand it revitalises the surroundings of the waterway and makes it more secure. On the other hand, the new dwellers have rather different expectations of waterside living. We have just seen this rear its ugly head in respect of the moorings on the south bank just downstream of St. Saviours Dock/Tower

Bridge. Here a longstanding group of moorers were threatened with eviction by Southwark Council simply because the new flat dwellers overlooking them decided the boaters made too much noise, and complained. I am pleased to report that after considerable lobbying, it looks as if common sense will prevail and all will learn to live with each other.

Very often lack of vision can lead to a waterway stagnating. This could be said of the Slough Arm, where, until recently, lack of attraction at the Terminus, combined with prolific summer weed growth, deterred even the most adventurous boater from going the last 1½ miles. Fortunately, it looks as if things are about to change. A new Group, Friends of the Slough Canal, has been formed to press for improvements. They made their entry at the Slough Canal Festival in September 2003, where a total of 33 boats were also present. The new Group plans work parties and will be pressing for the rejuvenation of the Basin area so that it can become a focus for the Arm. I wish them well. Likewise, I commend the plans of our South London Branch to highlight the former line of the long gone Croydon Canal, with a series of Marker Boards. They are currently seeking sponsors for this project. Earlier in 2003 they organised a conducted walk along part of the old line. Sadly this was not well supported. Perhaps the Marker Boards will raise interest in another way?

Looking forward to 2004. Can I remind everyone that the IWA continues to need your full support. Our Branch Socials organisers try to offer a varied fare, but they need members to come along to events. Why not, let that be your New Year resolution?

STOP PRESS. *As we were about to go to press, I heard on the "Towpath Telegraph" that the planning application for Waterloo Wharf, Uxbridge, mentioned above by Roger, has been turned down.*

Editor

ON THE METREAU : news and

Members honoured

Two London members were honoured in this year's round of awards of the Richard Bird Medal, IWA's award for long and outstanding service, which itself was set up in memory of a former London member. This year's awards were announced at the national AGM at the end of September.

Rosie Limming (Middlesex Branch) was a stalwart of the former London Branch Committee who went on to become one of the mainstays of the new Middlesex Branch when it was created. In both Branches she took a leading part in running their sales stands over many years. She was also involved in the Trade Show for the Coventry National and played an active part in Canalway Cavalcade. From 1996 until last year she managed the IWA's exhibition boat *Jubilee*.

Ernie Pull (South London Branch) must be one of our longest-serving volunteers, having joined IWA in the early 1950s and still working for it. He was a founder member of what later became WRG and an active worker on the ground for both the Basingstoke and the Wey & Arun restorations. But most notably, he is the only person to have been in the IWA team at the London Boat Show every year since the show started - now coming up to 50 years.

Former North & East London Branch Committee members (now living in Wales), Peter and Lesley Cardy were honoured for their work for the "National" over a period of ten years. They were both involved with the waterspace management, and Pete later became Technical Director.

Not a London member, but known to some of us as an excellent speaker who visited us a number of times, Dr David Hilling has been awarded the MBE for services to the waterways, and in particular for his work as a member of the Water Freight Forum Board. For many years David has been one of the stalwarts of IWA's Inland Shipping Group and has taken a prominent part in presenting its campaign to Government. His award is well-deserved.



David Hilling on relaxed mood on the Inland Shipping Group stand at last year's "National".

Photo by Libby Bradshaw.

London Canal Museum

There's a lot going on at the Museum at the moment.

At our AGM, Margaret Gwalter retired as our Chairman, and as a Trustee, although she will continue some of our other work for the Museum. Martin Sach was elected by the Trustees as our new Chairman, and we are looking for a suitable person to replace him as our Treasurer.

Work has started on an ambitious programme of improving access to the Museum for disabled visitors. The first step, which should be complete by the time you read this, is installation of a second lift so that the two main floors of the Museum and the mezzanine staging will all be accessible to wheelchair users. New automatic front doors will be installed soon which will also make life easier for people in wheelchairs. All the stairs in the building are going to be improved with surfaces which help the partially-sighted, and extra hand-rails. The ground floor exhibits will be given improved lighting, and there will be a video tour of the cabin of our narrowboat *Coronis* for wheel-chair users and an audio tour of the museum for the partially-sighted. All this work is funded by a series of grants, 70% of the

gossip of London's waterways

cost coming from the Bridge House Estates.

The next project to come on stream will be the refurbishment of the first floor gallery. This will be a slower process, as so far we only have grants for the first phase, which will consist of resurfacing the whole floor, and relocating and improving our exhibits about horses on the canals and in London's Streets.

National Science week in March (see the Diary pages) has always been a big thing for us, and in recent years we have had to spread it over more than a week to accommodate all the schools who want to take part. Already this year the first week is fully booked.

We are also taking a busy part in the Creative Canals Project. This is a Government-funded project for Science education through canal-related experience. The senior partner in the project is the Science Museum and they are joined by ourselves, the Ragged School Museum and Beauchamp Lodge, with its travelling classroom. The project activities in which we are involved bring about 60 pupils to the museum for a day for a series of activities led by Science Museum staff, some of them inside the museum and others on the floating classroom *Beauchamp*.

At the beginning of May, the steam narrowboat *President* will visit the Museum, mooring with us for a week between Canalway Cavalcade and her return to the Midlands via the Thames Tideway. We are planning some activities in conjunction with *President* over the weekend of 8th & 9th May, but the details aren't yet decided.

Peter Roberts

Peter's friends from the Central London Socials will be sad to hear that he is in hospital with a throat problem. I hear that he is unable to eat, and is being fed by a machine. I have sent him a card from London IWA. Peter has been one of our towpath walks guides since 1994 and is also well-known in Thames sailing barge circles.

STOP PRESS : Peter is now back at home, still fed by machine, but managed to make it to the Boat Show.

R.I.P.

Brian Murch

We were sorry to hear of the death on 24th November 2003 of Brian Murch. Brian was a member of the North & East London Branch and often to be seen, in the days of his good health, at its social meetings and those in Central London. Brian's days of boating on the Lee were well in the past by the time I knew him, but his enthusiasm for the waterways was undimmed.

Brian's political activities had taught him the importance of the quiet unsung work that goes on behind the scenes in any organisation, and he was a regular helper at **Excalibur** envelope-stuffing parties in the days when they happened in Islington. He was also Boat Entries Officer for several of the Limehouse Festivals.

Mike Stevens

Bryan Tansley

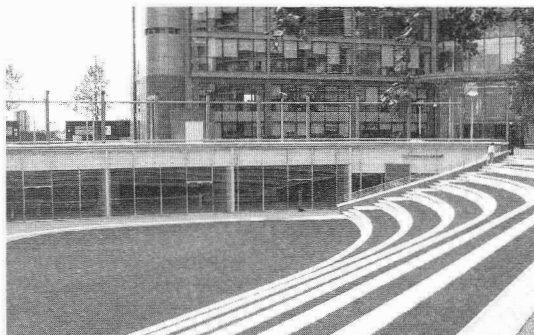
It is with sadness that we report the sudden and unexpected death of Bryan Tansley on 10th December 2003, after a short illness.

Bryan and his boat *Rum Tum* were regular attendees at London waterways events. However, he is perhaps best remembered for his fund raising exploits towards 'Guide Dogs for the Blind', perhaps the most memorable of which was a Sponsored Model Boat Cruise from Camden Lock to Bulls Bridge.

Bryan was a long time member of St Pancras Cruising Club, where he was, until recently, Harbour Master. He also held the Club's speed record for completing the Thames Ring, which he did single handed in 10 days a couple of years ago. Bryan was a man who was a true friend of the waterways. He will be greatly missed.

Roger Squires.

PROGRESS AT PADDINGTON BASIN



In early December, I found myself in the Paddington area with a camera and some time to spare, and thought that **Excalibur** readers might be interested to see the progress that has been made to date on the developments around the Basin.

Those of you who came to Canalway Cavalcade will have seen a lot of new building in the Paddington Central complex alongside the arm connecting the Basin to Browning's

Pool. The first of the new bridges to be built across the Arm featured on the cover of our Issue 37 a year ago. Already then the towpath of the arm, long closed to the public, had been re-opened and integrated into the space around the new buildings.

That space includes a tiered, grass-covered area that only a pedant like me wouldn't call an amphitheatre (picture above) and some statues (picture left, and no, I don't know who the young woman is). The towpath is now open as far as Bishop's Bridge, where it connects to one of the entrances to Paddington station, so creating a new pedestrian route to Little Venice.

There is currently no land access beyond Bishop's Bridge, but the long-term plan is for the towpath to continue and join the walkways round the Basin.

Turning to the Basin itself, the best views are still from the footbridge connecting North Wharf Road to St Mary's Hospital.

Looking westwards from there (picture below), one sees some moorings for business barges. One of these is occupied by BW's office-barge *Cowford* (known to its critics as *Cowpat*), and another is the operating base of the floating classroom *Beauchamp*. I wonder if they've been hidden away in



this less-than-prominent position because **Excalibur** identified them as two of the ugliest boats in London?

Across the arm stand some old canal-side warehouses. I understand that these belong to the hospital and are to be retained in its development plans.

Looking the other way from the bridge (top picture, next page) the first thing to catch one's eye among the new buildings is another business barge, this



one bright blue and styled as somebody's rather idiosyncratic idea of a Thames sailing barge.

Beyond it on that side of the basin are more mooring piers, and on the other side walkways that have been built out into the water because the pre-existing hospital buildings rise straight from the water's edge. These walkways are still in the hands of the builders and not yet open.

The far end of the basin has been turned into an enclosed enclave (pictures right and below) by piers projecting from the sides of the basin and connected by a movable "corkscrew" bridge. One proposal I've heard for this enclave is that it would provide a home for a number of



also house a changing display of historic boats, but I don't know whether that idea's still current. The walkway round this enclave is mostly open, and connects through to Praed Street, although the through passage is not as spacious and inviting as was shown in some of the early drawings

There's no sign yet of the proposed side-basin that was going provide space for some residential moorings.



*Mike Stevens
All photos by the author*

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 (contact details on front cover) : Vernon Draper; Treasurer : Tim Lewis (contact details on page 2) All queries should be addressed to Vernon Draper at the address at the foot of this page.

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 e-mail.....

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

Address.....

Postcode

Please pay to Barclays Bank plc Kettering Branch, Sort code 20-45-77 for the credit of the Inland Waterways Association London Region 200 Club Account no. 80204234, quoting reference(*) as follows : *{(*) will be inserted by Officers when processing.}*

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

OR

(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

The two halves of the form should be sent to Vernon Draper at 12 Chipperfield Close, New Bradwell, MILTON KEYNES, Buckinghamshire MK13 0EP

Waterways events in and around London.

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

For up-dates to this list, watch the Diary page on the Region web site at <http://www.waterways.org.uk/branchandregion/londonregion/index.htm>

Please note that all activities listed are open to the public.

JANUARY 2004

Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Temporary Exhibition. *Ruislip Lido* (a former reservoir for the Grand Junction Canal).

Wednesday 21st, 7.30pm IWA NORTH& EAST LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL. *Impact of London's Olympic bid* by Colin Edwards & Annie Chipchase.

FEBRUARY 2004

Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Temporary Exhibition continues. *Ruislip Lido*.

Sunday 1st, 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. King's Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station by the taxi rank. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).

Wednesday 4th, 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH. *Birds of the sea, estuaries and inland waterways* by a speaker from the Croydon Branch of the RSPB.

Thursday 5th, 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. *The Navvies' Year* by Martin Ludgate.

Weekend 7th/8th LONDON WRG. Dig at Oxenhall or the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal.

Monday 9th, 8pm IWA LEE & STORT BRANCH SOCIAL. *Cornucopia of Cruises* by Bob Dunkley & Yvonne Keenan.

Tuesday 10th, 8pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL. Speaker from the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust.

Sunday 15th, 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. Mile End to Limehouse. Meet outside the Mile End tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).

Monday 19th, 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. *East Pennine Ways* by Keith Noble.

Monday 19th, 8pm IWA KENT & E SUSSEX BRANCH SOCIAL. Branch AGM followed by *Trailboat Travels* by Bernard Snell. At 'Dog & Bear', Lenham, nr Maidstone.

Thursday 19th, 8pm IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL. LONDON SOCIAL. *Implications of London's Olympic bid* by Colin Edwards & Annie Chipchase.

Weekend 28th/29 LONDON WRG. Dig Deep on the Basingstoke Canal

MARCH 2004

Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Temporary Exhibition continues. *Ruislip Lido*.

Wednesday 3rd, 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH. Branch AGM (details on page 4), followed by round up of current news and discussion.

Thursday 4th, 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. *Bournville 5 -Chocolate to Cadbury's* by Richard Hill.

Sunday 7th, 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. Little Venice to Camden. Meet outside Warwick Avenue tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).

Monday 8th, 8pm IWA LEE & STORT BRANCH SOCIAL. Branch AGM followed by Branch Buffet.

Tuesday 9th, 8pm IWA KENT & E SUSSEX BRANCH SOCIAL. *Restoring the Ouse Navigation* by Michael Waller. At Tenterden.

Tuesday 9th, 8pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH. Branch AGM (details on page 4), followed by a Waterways Quiz.

Saturday 13th LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Science Day for Families. 10am to 4.30pm.

Tuesday 16th, 8pm IWA HERTS BRANCH SOCIAL. Branch AGM followed by *Thomas Telford Engineer and Visionary* by Runnalls Davis.

Wednesday 17th, 8pm IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH. Branch AGM (details on page 4), followed by *A day in the life of a Thames Tug* by Richard Thomas.

Thursday 18th, 8pm IWA CHILTERN BRANCH. Branch AGM followed by an illustrated talk by a Branch member.

Thursday 18th, 8pm IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL. *A cruise on the Nile* by Roger Wilkinson

Weekend 20th/21st LONDON WRG taking part in the BCN Clear-Up.

Sunday 21st, 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. King's Cross to Camden. Meet at King's Cross station by the taxi rank.

Weekend 27th/28th

IWA NATIONAL CLEAN-UP WEEKEND:-

NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH - on the River Lea, with Springfield Conservation Group, Hackney Marshes User Group and Lea Rivers Trust.

MIDDLESEX BRANCH - on the Slough Arm, with Friends of the Slough Canal.

SOUTH LONDON BRANCH - on the River Thames, with the Thames Landscape Strategy (Hampton to Kew).

APRIL 2004

Throughout the month LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. Temporary Exhibition continues. *Ruislip Lido*.

Thursday 1st, 7.30pm LONDON CANAL MUSEUM. *Water under the Bridge* by Lindy Foster Weinreb.

Sunday 4th, 2.30 pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. Islington to Mile End. Meet at Angel tube. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).

Wednesday 7th, 8pm IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL. *The Union and Forth and Clyde Canals* by Roger Squires.

Monday 12th, 8pm IWA LEE & STORT BRANCH SOCIAL. *Natter and noggin*.

Tuesday 13th, 8pm IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH SOCIAL. *Signalling* by David Delaney.

Thursday 15th, 8pm IWA LONDON REGION CENTRAL LONDON SOCIAL. Region AGM (details on page 4) followed by *Questions to British Waterways* with Eugene Baston(BW).

Weekend 17th/18th LONDON WRG. Dig on the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal

Sunday 18th, 11am IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH. Guided Walk of the Bow Back Rivers. Meet at The Miller's House, Three Mills Lane, E3.

Sunday 18th, 2.30pm LONDON IWA with *THE ORIGINAL LONDON WALKS*. GUIDED TOWPATH WALK. The Regent's Canal. Mile End to Limehouse. Meet outside Mile End tube station. About 2 hours. £5 a head (concessions £4).

Tuesday 20th, 8pm IWA HERTS BRANCH SOCIAL. *Flow Gently, Sweet Mimram* by Tony Rook.

Thursday 22nd, 8pm IWA KENT & E SUSSEX BRANCH SOCIAL. *Waterways Regeneration* by Andrew Stumpf. At Gravesend Sailing Club.

Venue details & contact people

MEETING	VENUE	CONTACT
IWA CENTRAL LONDON	<i>The Lamb</i> Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1	Mike Stevens (see details on page 1) (Nearest tube Russell Square)
IWA MIDDLESEX BRANCH	Hillingdon Canal Club, Uxbridge Wharf, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge	Robin Bishop (020) 8452 2632
IWA NORTH & EAST LONDON BRANCH	Springfield Marina, Spring Hill, Clapton, London E5	Marion Riley 07958 551760 email marion.riley@virgin.net
IWA SOUTH LONDON BRANCH	East Croydon United Reformed Church Hall Addiscombe Grove, CRO 5LP (Close to East Croydon station)	Lesley Pryde (020) 8679 9866 email cookielesley@tinyworld.co.uk
LONDON IWA / LONDON WALKS TOWPATH WALKS	As listed. Each about 2 hours. £5.00 (concessions £4.00).	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 (11 days before each dig) at the <i>Star Tavern</i> , Belgrave Mews West (Sloane Square or Knightsbridge tube)	Martin Ludgate (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 talks £2.50, concessions £1.25..	(020) 7713 0836
IWA CHILTERN BRANCH	Market Hall, High Street. Amersham	Colin Bird 01932 248178
IWA KENT & E SUSSEX BRANCH	Various venues ('phone for details)	Angela Acott 01634 722661
IWA LEE & STORT BRANCH	<i>The New Inn</i> , Roydon	Banny Banyard 07860 669279
IWA HERTS BRANCH	Hatfield Cricket Club	Peter Williamson 07966 824459

"HOW TO GET THERE" maps for the IWA Central London, and London branches' venues can be found on the internet at
<http://www.waterways.org.uk/branchandregion/londonregion/venues/index.htm>