

Sou'Wester

January 2015 | Issue 168

IWA South West Region



The Inland
Waterways
Association

www.waterways.org.uk/southwest

South West Region Committees

South West Region Committee:

Chairman	Roger Holmes	roger.holmes@waterways.org.uk	
Hon. Secretary	Ray Alexander	southwest@waterways.org.uk	
Sou'Wester Editor	Vacant	souwester@waterways.org.uk	
Navigation Committee Representative	Martin Turner	martin.turner@waterways.org.uk	
Committee Members	Geoff Harman	Peter Kelly	Lynda Martin

Avon & Wiltshire Branch Committee:

President	Fred Blampied		
Chairman	John Gornall	john.gornall@waterways.org.uk	0117 3296470
Hon. Secretary	Jeanne Aldous	jeanne.aldous@waterways.org.uk	0117 9324889
Events Officer	Geoff Harman	geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk	
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Membership Officer	Rosemary Gornall		0117 3296470
100 Club Administrator	Vivienne Hook	vivienne.m.hook@blueyonder.co.uk	
Committee Members	John Lewis	Tim Wheeldon	
Salisbury Group	Ron & Myra Glover	glover.3@btinternet.com	01722 710322
	Jon Van de Geer		01722 412841

Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch Committee:

Chairman	Martin Turner	martin.turner@waterways.org.uk	07860 521876
Vice Chairman & Publicity Officer	Roger Holmes	roger.holmes@waterways.org.uk	
Secretary	Sue Turner	sue.turner@waterways.org.uk	01452 312228
Treasurer	Vacant		
Committee Members	Polly Fothergill	Chris Hanscombe	Maggie Jones
	Martin Phillips	David Ramsey	

South Wales Branch Committee:

Chairman	Margaret Gwalter	iwa@gwalter.co.uk	01792 851 271/ 07973 336 097
Hon. Secretary & Publicity Officer	Pat Cleary	southwales@waterways.org.uk	
Hon. Treasurer	Henry Brown		
Membership Officer	Tony Pugh		
Committee Members	Michelle Davidson	Gareth Hughes	Gill Thomas
	Mike Synan		

West Country Branch Committee:

Chairman	Bob Abbott	bob.abbott@waterways.org.uk	
Hon. Secretary	Peter Kelly	westcountry@waterways.org.uk	
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Moore	bude.canal@gmail.com	
Committee Members	Ray Alexander	Chris Jewell	Pat Robinson
	Mike Slade	Hilary Wills	Adrian Wills

Region Chairman

First, a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Next to branches, who will be holding their AGMs in March (details later). I hope you can attend to support the hard working committees and meet me.

Branch campaigning is strong:

- **IWA West Country Branch** holds regular work parties on the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal, which have had a great affect on the waterway. The committee is also working to have plans to make waterways in the Somerset Levels navigable included in flood relief projects.
- **IWA Avon and Wilts Branch** is watching the situation on the lower Kennet and Avon, where mooring regulations have been flouted to the detriment of other users. CRT has recently appointed an enforcement officer and some long-stay boaters are already in the enforcement process.
- **IWA Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch** continues to monitor limited opening times of the ocks and bridges in its area.

- **IWA South Wales Branch** still supports restoration in its area.

The branches now communicate more via email. If you are not receiving branch emails and would like to, please let your branch know. Contact details are on the inside cover.

Moving on, I am slightly concerned with CRT's advertising of meetings, this is especially true in the South Wales and Severn area. I recently attended a user group forum in Gloucester where there were seven CRT staff and five members of the public, of these I had informed four. Low attendance was due to the lack of efficient advertisement. Similarly, the meeting in South Wales could have had even worse attendance had the local branch not emailed its members.

Finally, the search for a *Sou'Wester* editor continues. It is a great opportunity to help the region and I am told that it is not as difficult as it may seem, you do not even have to organise printing.

In conclusion, I hope to see many of you at the 2015 AGMs, supporting your hard working committees. **Roger Holmes**

Annual General Meetings

Programme of IWA Branch AGMs in South West Region

Notice is hereby given that the 2015 Annual General Meetings (AGM) of IWA branches in the South West Region will be held as follows. Please note that there will be no Region AGM in 2015.

IWA Avon & Wilts Branch

The AGM of IWA Avon & Wilts Branch will be held on Saturday 21st March 2015 at 2.30pm in The Crown, Saltford, BS31 3HJ. The Crown is between Bristol and Bath on the A4. Bristol to Bath bus services 37, 38, 39, X39 stop at the door.

IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch

The AGM of IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch will be held on Thursday 5th March 2015 at 7.30pm at Gloucester Yacht Club (GL1 2EQ). Free parking is available at North Warehouse after 6pm (GL1 2EP).

IWA South Wales Branch

The AGM of IWA South Wales Branch will be held on Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7pm in the Beulah United Reform Church Hall, Beulah Road, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, CF14 6LT.

IWA West Country Branch

The AGM of IWA West Country Branch will be held on Saturday 7th March 2015 at 11am at the The Black Horse Inn, Torrington (please note that although known locally as Torrington, the location appears on most maps as Great Torrington). Lunch will follow at 12noon, with a tour of the Rolle Canal and environs in the afternoon.

AGM Agenda

Agenda

(Applicable at all branch AGMs in IWA's South West Region)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2014 AGM and any Extraordinary General Meetings held subsequently and matters rising from these meetings
3. Branch Chairman's Report
4. Region Chairman's Report
5. Financial Report
6. Election of Committee (see notes below)
7. Any items requested by members of the Branch

Notes

1. Candidates for election to a branch committee must be members of the relevant branch and the candidate must indicate his/her willingness to stand.
2. All elected members of a branch committee who have held office for a term of three years have to retire, as does any member co-opted during the committee meeting since the last AGM. Members in either category are eligible for re-election.
3. There shall be at least three elected members of each branch committee but there is no upper limit to the number of members.
4. In addition to the elected members, each branch chairman is ex-officio a member of the Region Committee.
5. The branch committee officers (chairman, secretary and treasurer), shall be elected by the committee at the meeting following the AGM.

News

Brian Sheppard Award 2014

The South West Region Committee was delighted to award the Brian Sheppard award for 2014 to two recipients, Hugh Conway-Jones and Roger Harding.

The Brian Sheppard award is made on an annual basis to a member, or members, in recognition of a significant contribution to the Association's campaign in the Region or some part of it.



Hugh Conway-Jones speaking to IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch, thanking the Region for the award

Hugh Conway-Jones is a well-known historian and author who

specialises in Gloucester Docks and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. He has led a number of IWA tours of the docks and has given many informative talks to IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch. He has championed the Docks and Canal over many years and was the guiding force of LOCK200, which celebrated Gloucester Dock's 200th anniversary. The whole waterway movement in Gloucestershire owes him a great debt.



Roger Harding receives award from Ray Alexander, IWA South West Region Hon. Secretary

Roger Harding was a founding member of the Stover Canal Society. He took the helm in 1999 and has been pivotal in furthering the aims of the Society to restore the Canal and its environs. Phase 1 comprised the reinstatement of a 1 mile length of towpath for walkers and was completed in the summer of 2013, a fitting

testament to Roger's hard work and dedication to the Stover Canal.

Somerset Levels

Members will be only too well aware of the severe flooding that took place on the Somerset Levels last winter and the devastating impact this had on local communities.

In response, numerous small and medium sized projects have been or are being implemented across the Somerset Levels.

As far as the waterways are concerned there are three principal projects, as follows:

- Dredging and widening about 5 miles of the rivers Parrett and Tone, in the vicinity of Burrow Bridge, in order to significantly increase their capacity to hold water. Despite a slow start to the dredging, the work was completed by early November, only slightly later than originally promised by the Environment Agency (EA).
- Widening the Sowy River (the 7.5 mile flood relief channel opened in 1972), the main purpose of which is to increase its capacity and thereby its ability to take excess water from the River Parrett to the

King's Sedgemoor Drain, thus avoiding Bridgwater. The 2014 LEP Growth Deal includes an allocation of £13.1m for this work.

- Building a tidal barrier across the River Parrett, downstream of Bridgwater, the principal objective of which is to prevent the tidal surges up the River Parrett and thereby protect both Bridgwater itself and the Levels and Moors further upstream. The Report completed in 2009 intimated that a barrier would need to be built between 2030 and 2050, to counteract in particular the effect of rising sea levels on Bridgwater and its environs.

In light of the flooding, HM Government commissioned Somerset County Council to produce a 20-year Flood Action Plan, which was completed in February. The pressure is now on to build a tidal barrier earlier than previously contemplated. A conference of some 60 technical experts took place in June, following which a small committee was established with the intention of producing a report by September, although this was subsequently deferred.

IWA West Country Branch committee has attended local

presentations and drop-in sessions in Bridgwater and has had discussions with both EA and Sedgemoor District Council on the impact of the floods on the waterways and the emerging plans for alleviating flooding in the future. Our principal objectives are to protect the existing navigation rights on the River Parrett and to use the tidal barrier to enhance the possibility of more waterways in Somerset becoming accessible in the future for boating and other activities. Consultation papers were issued in mid-December on both the Sowey River and the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier and these are being reviewed.

Wheeley Boats on the Cotswold Canals

Designed by charity Sailing 4 Disabled, Wheeley Boats enable wheelchair users to enjoy the delights of travelling on and operating a canal boat. To purchase such a craft would cost around £9000.

Jan Thomas visited the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust recently and saw the boats in operation. She realised what a great experience it would be for the craft to be used on the newly restored canal at Stroud. A feasibility cruise was organised

and Pete Bisson, Operations Director of Sailing 4 Disabled; Jan Thomas; Polly Fothergill; Martin Turner and IWA members brought together a team of volunteers to help. The boats were launched from the slipway off Chestnut Lane with passengers aboard and volunteers walking the towpath to operate the bridges and locks. The cruise went through Chestnut Lane Bridge, Dudbridge Locks and Old Mills Bridge where participants stopped for coffee at the new kiosk on the square before heading on to Ryeford Locks to turn and return to Chestnut Lane.

The result was a very successful trip. With many IWA members volunteering this is a great example of how IWA can help get projects started and support them in the future, with the added bonus of creating a major community asset on the restored Canal, which will then support the upcoming HLF bid. The passengers especially Bill and Steve had a wonderful time; Steve said he had been waiting for this opportunity for years! Passing Walkers all commented on how great it was to see the locks and Canal being used. This will now be IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch's main volunteering effort.

IWA South Wales Branch Receives £250



IWA South Wales Branch Chairman, Margaret Gwalter receives cheque

Anthony Pugh, IWA South Wales Membership Secretary, held a Ladies Dinner Dance in October and raised £750 for a number of charities. £250 of this was gratefully received by IWA South Wales Branch, which was one of the nominated charities.

Funding for IWA West Country Branch

IWA West Country Branch received a grant of £1000 from Westover Ward earlier in the Autumn. The money is to support on-going projects on the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal. Westover Ward Councillor, Brian Smedley had high praises for the volunteers stating *"They're doing fantastic work in terms of clearing*

away litter and cutting back vegetation".

Holmer Trading Estate Scheme Back on Track

The scheme for redeveloping the Holmer Trading Estate, along the Hereford & Gloucester Canal, was secured due to the inclusion of redevelopment plans of the Canal. Unfortunately, redevelopment did not ever proceed because of the recession.

The property market is now in recovery and a new developer has stepped forward with the aim of producing revised plans to move the Trading Estate project forward. This will see about a third of the Canal in Hereford restored and transferred to the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust.

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Wins £60k Funding

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust has won £50,000 to create a wildlife corridor in the People's Millions TV competition run by ITV and BIG Lottery.

The Wildlife Trail will be created along the restored Canal next to the closed landfill site at Studley

Grange, Royal Wootton Bassett, creating a standing water habitat and with a multi-use path. A kilometre of canal banks will be planted with a variety of hedging, shrubs and wild flowers to provide food and shelter wildlife.

IWA provided £4,000 towards the match funding for Studley Grange.

The Trust has also been awarded £10,000 by the Yorkshire Building Society Lasting Legacy Fund to repair a 200 year old structure, Cocklemore Brook culvert.

Both grants were awarded on the results of a competitive public vote. Wilts & Berks Canal Trust has asked us to pass on its thanks to IWA members who voted and made this a success.

IWA West Country Branch Appeals for Small Boat

IWA West Country Branch holds regular work parties along the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal. Volunteers undertake various tasks including the removal of floating litter. This requires the use of a small craft so that the litter can be reached. CRT has provided suitable vessels in the past but will not be able to do so again for the foreseeable future.

As a result, there has already been an increase in the floating litter at places like Bridgwater Docks. This illustrates how important the Branch's work parties are in helping to manage the situation. The Branch has issued an appeal for a suitable rowing boat, an engine would also be useful, that could be donated or loaned to the group for use in this task on a fairly regular basis. The craft does not have to be in top condition as volunteers are happy to carry out minor remedial works. The Branch could collect it from within a reasonable distance and have arranged secure storage.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact IWA West Country Branch Chairman, Bob Abbott at bob.abbott@waterways.org.uk.

Archaeological Dig, Stover Canal

The Stover Canal runs from Ventiford down to Newton Abbot in South Devon and was built in 1792 to move ball clay from the Bovey Basin down via the Teign to the Estuary at Shaldon. From here it would be transported to the Wedgwood factory via the Channel, Irish Sea and the Trent & Mersey Canal. In 1820, orders for Dartmoor granite to build London Bridge began and the Haytor

Granite Tramway was constructed down to Ventiford. The Stover Canal was extended half a mile to meet at the Basin. In 1858 both the Tramway and the upper part of the Canal were closed due to dwindling orders.

The Stover Canal Trust (SCT) has been working to restore the Canal. As part of this Trust archaeologist, Dr. Phil Newman, wanted to investigate Ventiford Basin. He set up a week-long archaeological dig in May this year, which was attended by volunteers from SCT and the local area.

Various areas across the Ventiford Basin were investigated. The team working where the winding hole had once been, hoped to find an abandoned barge shown in old pictures of the site.

By the end of the first day a line of large rusty nails had been uncovered indicating the barge was there. On Day 2, the timber sides and ribs were unearthed and as the week continued the large dimensions of the barge could be seen. About half the barge was uncovered in the week.

In the Basin itself, volunteers found 6 feet of silt built up on the bed. Beneath this the original base of flat-faced granite blocks used to revet the vertical banks down past the crane base was discovered.

The group had also hoped to uncover the remains of a clay cellar, which they knew had been near the winding hole, but the ground clay in that area was too solid to dig by hand.

A further dig is planned for next spring when a small excavator could be hired and the rest of the boat uncovered.

Thanks to Diana Smurthwaite who provided this account.

Sou'Wester History

An interesting piece of history was recently discovered in IWA Bulletin 64 (June 1961), which stated "*We congratulate our South Western Branch upon the appearance of a new Branch journal, "The Sou'Wester". In an attractive olive cover, and excellently presented throughout, it makes good reading*".

Sou'Wester has clearly survived the change from a Branch to a Region newsletter somewhere along the way, and continues to be produced today. In order to maintain production of our long-standing newsletter, an editor needs to be found. If you think you could help, take a look at the advert in this issue of *Sou'Wester*.

Branch Reports

IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch Report

Due to the Chairman's indisposition it falls to me as Branch Secretary to write a report for this issue of *Sou'Wester*.

The winter programme, which Geoff Harman organises, is under way. Members attending the October meeting were treated to an illustrated talk on the Severn Bridge disaster by Paul Barnet.

We are all familiar with the colourful decoration of narrow boats and Robert Wright explained the history and development of this art form to the members who met in November. By the time you read this we will have eaten the mince pies and taxed our brains at the December Quiz Night and may even have seen in the New Year. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for the annual Sunday lunch at the Bristol Golf Club.

Moving on to Navigation matters, the committee has been concerned with local problems such as the moorings at Pulteney Weir in Bath, where Bath & North East Somerset Council issued legal notices to clear all boats from

Thimble Mill to Pulteney, the space is still empty. CRT opened limited new public moorings within the Widcombe flight, and it is hoped the popular river moorings will be available next year with additional safety measures.

There have been further cases of drowning in the river this year and we extend our sympathy to the relatives and friends of the victims. It is important that the RoSPA Report's recommendations are carried out as soon as possible and the dangers of walking by the river at night are communicated.

On the restoration front, Wilts & Berks Canal Trust was successful in gaining two grants/prizes for its work, to the tune of £60,000 in total. Both awards resulted from public vote.

The River Avon has been closed for three weeks to allow the installation of new lock gates at Swineford lock and masonry repairs at two others. I was fortunate to observe the lock gate work at close hand as we live opposite, the organisation of the work could not be faulted. Those of us who remember the old days when a barge and set of shear legs

would suffice are somewhat taken aback at the amount of equipment needed to comply with modern engineering practices but the job was carried out quickly and efficiently.

Please look at the programme and reward Geoff for his hard work by attending some of our meetings and don't forget the Branch AGM where you have an opportunity to join the committee. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jeanne Aldous
jeanne.aldous@waterways.org.uk
Branch Secretary

IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch Report

The last few months have seen various activities. We have had some excellent talks, in particular on the life cycle of eels, which drift from the Sargasso sea to the River Severn stay for fifteen years and then go back to breed! Our following meeting, all about the Leominster Canal, was also a fascinating evening. Trouble is, we now have to keep up the standard! In addition, we had a good Christmas Social where we had plenty of food and were entertained by a band called Top Hat, already booked for next year!

I went to CRT's open forum in Gloucester where they gave an excellent presentation and listened closely to many questions, concerning operation of bridges, opening hours of the River Severn and Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. Communications from CRT, where at present their seems to be a problem, will no doubt improve locally and nationally following various discussions.

CRT has undergone a reorganisation and Nick Worthington, the local Waterways Manager, is now mainly responsible for customer relations. I look forward to dealing with him on a regular basis.

CRT also had its local AGM, which I attended. Jack Hagerty, the Chair, has done an excellent job over the last three years helping set up the local group, he has had to resign due to work pressure and I am sure he will be missed. I came away with the impression that the members are highly motivated to make the waterways a better place. They gave a ten-year plan that can be viewed on CRT's website. The important thing is that they are listening, feedback from any of you will be taken up, just mail or ring me.

Many of you would have been on the flotilla for Ben Selfe, I think it

was an event that will stay in the memories of many for years. We now have a proposal to have a flotilla each year probably over the Gloucester Heritage Weekend followed by an event in the docks. I will keep you posted.



Ben Selfe flotilla

Next April, we have a couple of walks organised, one to look at the Hereford and Gloucester Lock works at Llantony and Over; and the the second with IWA Warwickshire Branch at Daneway on the Thames and Severn Canal. Do come along!

Martin Turner
01452 312 228
martin.turner@waterways.org.uk
Branch Chairman

IWA South Wales Branch Report

Help

The branch needs some new committee members. We meet six times a year, twice in Swansea and

the rest in Cardiff, always in the evening so as not to preclude those with a day job. In particular, we need a secretary whose role will be to circulate meeting agendas and take and circulate minutes, just a record of decisions taken and those who will carry out the actions decided upon. We could also do with someone to assist our present publicity officer. There is a lot going on in South Wales and we do not promote ourselves as much as we should. If you are able to help please contact Margaret on iwa@gwalter.co.uk.

In Brief

Swansea Canal Society had a very successful first summer for their Canoe Project.

Glandwr Cymru made a presentation to Swansea Council about their work with particular reference to their plans for the Council Yard at Clydach.

The restoration on the Mon & Brec continues apace. See their website for all the details.

The trip boat on the Neath Canal had another successful year with the highlight the boat being used to convey a bride to the Church.

The Trust celebrated its 40th birthday on 21st November at the Castle Hotel Neath.

Planning

There are concerns about the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan where they have removed the protection from two stretches of the Swansea Canal and one of the Neath. The Planning Enquiry by the Welsh Assembly government is due to start on 11th March 2015.

We await the next stage of Swansea's LDP.

Thank You

We would like to thank Tony and Beryl Pugh for their generous donation of £250 to branch funds.

Margaret
07973 336 097
iwa@gwalter.co.uk
Branch Chairman

IWA West Country Branch Report

Following our last Branch committee meeting on 3rd October I was away for almost eight weeks in Australia and New Zealand so this curtailed my activities and I've been playing catch-up ever since! Therefore, I had to give apologies to both the Regional Committee meeting and also to the SWAC meeting. I also missed several volunteer work parties on the

Bridgwater & Taunton Canal. Thanks to committee members Ray Alexander and Mike Slade for covering in my absence.

On 25th November, myself and some of the committee attended a meeting with the current Mayor of Taunton, Dave Durdan, where many local topics and ideas were discussed. Taunton Deane Borough Council has a 'Task & Finish Group', on which we are well represented, looking at specific issues to improve areas in the town centre and around the River Tone.

The Branch has a new Information Cabin that now sits proudly repainted in the CRT car park at Bridgwater Docks. We have some ongoing repairs and improvements to carry out but these costs have been met by the £1000 grant generously given to us by Bridgwater Town Council. The cabin itself was previously a corporate presentation trailer, but it will be well and truly static now!

There have been several Branch work parties along the Bridgwater & Taunton some of which I have attended and all supported by CRT. Our growing band of volunteers along the whole of the Canal has attracted much attention and praise both by the public and authorities. We are

continuing our work programme into the New Year and before we know, it will be Himalayan Balsam time again!

On 2nd December, we attended a meeting at Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) to discuss grants and support for possible future events.

There was a presentation at SDC offices on 9th December giving the latest information regarding Somerset's flooding problems and how and when various monies will be expended. There is also a proposal to set up a new Somerset Rivers Authority.

A meeting was instigated by ourselves at the Admirals Landing pub at Bridgwater Dock, to discuss how to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the reopening of the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal in 1994. There were twelve attendees, a CRT representative and several apologies. Many positive views and ideas were tabled. The next meeting is on 14th January 2015 at the YMCA complex in Bridgwater. This will be actively supported by IWA West Country Branch but as there will be many other organisations involved a new group the "Friends of Bridg-Water-Side", will be taking the lead. Contact Pat Robinson on 01278 256961 for more information.

I take this opportunity to wish all of our members, our many volunteers and lots of other supporters a belated but Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you and your families.

Bob Abbott

bob.abbott@waterways.org.uk

Branch Chairman

IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch Salisbury Group Report

At the first meeting of the autumn season in October, Ron and Myra Glover gave a talk, rather different from their normal subject of European waterways. Instead they spoke of their trip to the waterways of Canada. The presentation included many interesting accounts of adventures in a canoe and on a 38ft Grand Banks cruiser.

In November, the group were treated to a talk from Nick Grundy who, whilst at university in the mid 1970s, spent much time exploring and photographing the waterways of northeast England. This part of the country was one of the very few areas where commercial cargo carrying on the inland waterways continued beyond the 1960s. In the late 1970s Nick did a number of trips

as crew on a 300 ton commercial barge carrying cargoes on the Humber, Trent, Yorkshire Ouse and Aire & Calder Navigations. This included a three-month period of full time barging mainly carrying sand and gravel from Rampton on the tidal Trent to Knottingley. Nick took many photographs of these waterways particularly around the River Humber and the River Hull, so the group was able to see his record of these craft being loaded and unloaded with bulk cargoes that were difficult to transport by road or rail. Nick was also able to record pictures of the Humber Bridge under construction, of Humber Keels being used commercially, of barges being used to transport petrol, and other craft loaded right down to the gunwales transporting their goods to enable industry to function continuously in the north east. We are all very

fortunate that as a student, Nick had the forethought to photograph these scenes so a record of these commercial activities has been recorded for prosperity.

In December, we took part in the annual quiz organised by Southampton Canal Society. Our team comprised of Colin Davis, Ron Glover, Nick Grundy and Frank Wilson. Four teams took part this year and we were content with our third position.

The year was rounded off with our usual Christmas dinner when twenty-one of us enjoyed the meal served up by Jeff and his team at The Green Dragon.

Don't forget to take a look at the programme details later in *Sou'Wester* to see what is planned for 2015, we hope to see you there!

Forthcoming Events

IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch Social Programme

Venue: Meetings unless otherwise stated will be held at The Crown, Saltford, BS31 3HJ, which is between Bristol and Bath on the

A4. Bristol to Bath bus services 37, 38, 39, X39 stop at the door.

Dates:

Sunday 25th January 2015, 12.30 for 1pm

Annual Sunday lunch at the Bristol Golf Club (£21), Blackhorse Hill,

Almondsbury, Bristol BS10 7TP.
Please book with Geoff Harman.

**Thursday 12th February 2015,
7.30pm**

“Somersetshire Coal Canal
Restoration Update”.

Saturday 21st March 2015, 2.30pm

Branch AGM, lunch and talk.
Please let Geoff Harman know if
you will be attending.

For further information, Sunday
lunch and AGM bookings contact
Geoff Harman at
geoff.harman@waterways.org.uk
or on 01179 623812.

IWA Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch Social Programme

Venue: Meetings will be held at
Gloucester Yacht Club (GL1 2EQ).

Dates:

**Thursday 5th February 2015,
7.30pm**

A talk from Paul Barnett, topics to
be chosen on the night.

Thursday 5th March 2015, 7.30pm

Branch AGM, followed by talk
from CRT South West Waterways
Trust representative.

Tuesday 17th March 2015, 7.30pm

Joint Herefordshire &
Gloucestershire Canal Trust,

Cotswold Canals Trust and IWA
meeting at The Royal Oak, Much
Marcle, HR8 2ND.

Sunday 5th April 2015, 11am

Tour of Llanthony and Over sites.
Meet at Gloucester Yacht Club.

Sunday 19th April 2015, 11am

Tour of Cotswold Canals sites.
Meet at The Daneway Inn, GL7
6LN.

For further details or to book your
place on a tour please contact Sue
Turner at
sue.turner@waterways.org.uk or
on 01452 312228.

IWA West Country Branch Events

**Wednesday 14th January 2015,
7.30pm**

Friends of Bridg-Water-Side
meeting at Bridgwater YMCA, TA6
3RF. Contact Pat Robinson on
01278 256961, for more details.

January, February & March 2015

Work parties will be held around
twice a month in January,
February and March, contact Mike
Slade at
mike.slade@waterways.org.uk or
Chris Robinson at
chris.robinson@waterways.org.uk
for more details.

IWA Avon & Wiltshire Branch Salisbury Group Programme

Venue: The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR

Dates:

**Thursday 15th January 2015,
7.30pm**

“The River Severn Bore”, Chris Witts.

**Thursday 19th February 2015,
7.30pm**

“Fall out – Rolt/Aickman and the Origins of IWA”, Stuart Burroughs.

**Thursday 19th March 2015,
7.30pm**

“Twinning – The Kennet & Avon and the Canal du Nivernais”, Di Harris.

Thursday 16th April 2015, 7.30pm

“The Panama Canal”, Gareth Jones.

Further information can be obtained from Ron & Myra Glover at glover.3@btinternet.com or 01722 710322, or from Jon Van de Geer on 01722 412841.

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of IWA.

Editor Wanted

A temporary editor has produced this issue of *Sou'Wester*, a volunteer to take on the role permanently is sought.

Articles are produced by members and collated by the editor, printing and distribution is arranged by Head Office.

This is an excellent opportunity to take on an interesting and important role.

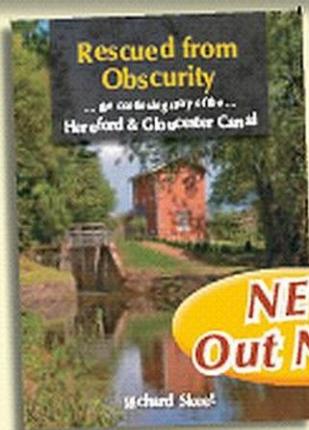
If you feel you could help, contact Roger Holmes, Region Chairman, by email roger.holmes@waterways.org.uk, or Stefanie Preston at IWA Head Office at stefanie.preston@waterways.org.uk or on 01494 783 453 ext. 610.

Next Issue of *Sou'Wester*

The next issue of *Sou'Wester* is due out in April. Any content should be sent to the Editor at souwester@waterways.org.uk by **Friday 20th March 2015**.

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