



The Inland  
**Waterways**  
Association

**Great Ouse Branch**

**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

**Thursday, 24th March 2016**

*This will be followed by an update  
from the River Managers of the  
Environment Agency.*

*Please forward any questions to be directed to  
the Environment Agency to our Secretary  
[john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk](mailto:john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk)*

# Ouse News - Appendix 1

---

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association will be held on Thursday, 24th March 2016 at the Cole's Road Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6BL at 8.00 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2015 - printed in Appendix 2
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes, not included on this agenda
4. Chairman's Report - printed in Appendix 3
5. Secretary's Report - printed in Appendix 4
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts - printed in Appendix 5
7. Election of Branch Committee
8. Close of Meeting

**Notes:** (following the amendment of Byelaws dated 14/3/09)

1. Accounts are audited by IWA Head Office. There is no need to adopt the accounts or appoint an auditor.
2. There is no longer any limit to Committee numbers. Members serve for 3 years after which they retire but may seek re-election.
3. There are 3 committee members due to retire by rotation : Derek Bradley, Stephen Foote and Peter Webb.
4. New Committee Members are most welcome. Those who would like to stand must sign the consent form below and send to the Branch Secretary, John Hodgson (Address on page 2) **before the AGM.**

✂

---

## **INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION CONSENT FORM**

I agree to stand for election at the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch. I am a member of the Great Ouse Branch.

(Sign) ..... Print Name .....

Date .....

---

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association on Thursday 26 March 2015. Held at the Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge at 8.03 p.m.**

Present: Keith Alderton (Chairman) plus 21 Branch members.

1. Apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Gail Mead, Philip and Susan Baker and Meg Foote.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 March 2014

The minutes of the 2014 AGM, having been previously circulated as Appendix 2 of the Spring 2015 issue of *Ouse News*, were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Carole Alderton and seconded by Derek Bradley. This was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the AGM on 27 March 2014

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was similarly included in *Ouse News* in Appendix 3. The Chairman thanked the members of the committee for their help and support 'behind the scenes'. There were no questions for the Chairman.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was also printed in *Ouse News* as Appendix 4. There was nothing to add to these notes. There were no questions for the Secretary.

---

## **Ouse News - Appendix 2 cont'd.**

---

### 6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and accounts were available in Appendix 5 of *Ouse News*. It was added that there was no money from the branch being spent on restoration as it was not appropriate in this area. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

### 7. Election of Committee Members

David Anderson was due for re-election after his three year term of office had ended and was eligible for re-election. Gail Mead was co-opted to the committee during the year and was due to be substantively elected. Both were proposed for election by Derek Bradley, seconded by Peter Webb and elected unanimously.

8. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 pm.

## **Ouse News - Appendix 3: Chairman's Report 2015-2016**

It is time, once again, to reflect on the past year's branch activities. The highlight of the year was, without doubt, our visit to the Welney Wetland Centre in November when 35 members and guests had the opportunity to see the flocks of swans flying in at dusk; this was followed by an excellent sausage and mash supper. Later in the evening we saw a flood-lit swan feed with an accompanying commentary about the birds and the surrounding watercourses. The concept of an off-season away-day has proved to be popular and we intend to include a suitable visit once again in the forthcoming programme.

We held our usual activities over the Mayday weekend at Reach Fair. Regrettably, we tend to have fewer boats making the difficult passage along Reach Lode in recent years as several members have moved from the local waterways to the canal network. However, it is important that boats continue to navigate the Lode in order to demonstrate to the authorities that the waterway is still in regular use.

---

## **Ouse News - Appendix 3 cont'd.**

---

The traditional branch dinner at the *Dykes End* pub on the Saturday night was well supported. On the Mayday Bank Holiday Monday we had a double presence at Reach Fair with one gazebo for sales and information and a second gazebo to house WOW 'Wild Over Waterways' activities for children. We also had our usual stand at Ely Aquafest in July.

The winter series of meetings was well received with illustrated talks on *Welney Through the Seasons* by the Welney Wetland Centre (to whet our appetite for the later visit), *The Highland Canals* by Richard Thomas and *Boat Maintenance* by River Canal Rescue. In addition, we have had informative presentations by the managers of the River Cam and Environment Agency navigations.

Committee members have also been involved with tentative plans by Thetford Town Council to restore navigation on the Little Ouse between Brandon and Thetford. This is a long-term, multi-million pound project that will involve the building of four new locks and extending the existing Brandon Lock. The project has got off to an encouraging start and we look forward to progress being made towards raising funds in the coming year. Committee members have also been involved in a variety of other meetings with local and national organisations.

It takes a lot of hard work to make all of this happen, and I would like to thank every one of our committee members for their efforts and support throughout the year. Under Carole's editorship, the newsletter has gone from strength to strength. John's secretarial work in the background has kept everything ticking along smoothly and Enid has kept our finances in good order. David does sterling work storing and carting the gear about for our stand, in addition to his duties as Sales Officer. Peter keeps an eye on membership and with his wife Jean provides the refreshments at our meetings. Our new committee member, Gail, has been particularly keen on expanding our WOW activities.

***Keith Alderton***

---

### Ouse News - Appendix 4: Secretary's Report 2015-16

The branch has, once again, held its own in terms of membership numbers, closing the year slightly up on last year. It is hoped that this will continue.

The branch magazine, *Ouse News*, continues under the guidance of our editor, Carole Alderton who, she tells me, is always looking for articles from as far and wide as possible. For the newsletter, we continue to use the printing and distribution services of Head Office which is still saving the branch considerable expense over the former methods which, together with the advertising income, is helping to offset the reduction in the per-capita allowance we suffered a couple of years ago. Fortunately that reduction did not continue as we feared it might. Mentioning advertising, I will take this opportunity to thank all our advertisers for their continued (and sometimes new) support. The sale of Christmas cards has also been a valuable source of income, so please continue to buy these either at branch meetings, events or through *Ely Boat Chandlers* where they are available at the appropriate time.

The branch was able to donate £1,000 to the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) towards their appeal to replace their four work vans used on restoration projects.

Members will probably not be surprised that there is nothing significant to report on either the EA / Cam Conservators (CamCon) interchange agreement of the navigation licensing above Bottisham lock or on the transfer of the navigation responsibilities in general from EA to Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT). Hopefully some real progress will be achieved before too much longer. Unfortunately a number of locks were out of commission at the same time in the middle of last boating season and since June St Neots lock is still, as I write in late January, no nearer a solution. Castle Mills lock is now draining the river upstream because of the failure some weeks ago of one of the sluice gates. The dredging issues are no nearer a solution either!

---

## **Ouse News - Appendix 4 cont'd.**

---

I am pleased to report that the mooring management arrangements at Ely (on which the branch was a consultee) are now in place and up to now are proving a great success.

At the forthcoming AGM, three members reach the end of their three year terms. They are: Derek Bradley, Stephen Foote and Peter Webb. All are eligible for re-election. Speaking of committee membership, I will make my, by now traditional, plea for a new social secretary. The job is not too onerous; after all, there are only four branch meetings a year and one of those is the AGM. If anyone is able and willing to take on this role they will be more than welcome as it will take the extra load from the shoulders of the existing members. Please form an orderly queue!

The branch, with others, now keeps a log of hours spent on Association business and Head Office can use this for “match funding” for grants. This year the total was in the order of 700 hours, including travelling and social functions.

Two navigation projects have been suggested, which are still in the early days of consultation. These are: extending the Burwell Lode navigation into the village and restoring the Little Ouse through to Thetford. Branch committee members have been involved with both of these projects and more information will be available as progress is made.

The branch section of the IWA website is active and I would commend a visit to it. The easiest way is to go to the IWA home page [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk) and follow the links from there to the branch starting with “IWA local” along the top.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a sunny and happy boating season and hope to meet as many of you as possible somewhere on our lovely system.

*John Hodgson*

---

# Ouse News - Appendix 5

---

## TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2015

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2015

	£		£
Balance at 1 Jan 2015	<u>2,779.19</u>	Current assets:	
		Debtors	0.00
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-638.26	Current account	100.00
		Business Premium a/c	2,044.13
		Cash, Sales Officer	42.50
		Less liabilities	-45.70
		Creditors	
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>	<u><u>2,140.93</u></u>		<u><u>2,140.93</u></u>

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subs: Per capita re newsletter	373.03	Newsletter:	
Collections at meetings	162.00	Production	181.60
Branch sales	242.65	Distribution	77.49
Donations:		Guest speakers	80.70
Branch sales of donated goods	-	Purchase of Sales stock	120.98
Meeting refreshments	33.60	Rotary Club: Aquafest	-
Income from Advertising	342.00	Meeting costs	221.60
		Raffle costs	-
Interest received	30.60	Subscription: EAWA	10.00
		Officers expenses (Postage)	12.84
Branch Outing	476.70	printer ink	31.00
		Toy Lock for WOW	23.98
		2 Folding tables	61.95
Raffle at Reach BBQ	-	Branch Outing	476.70
		IWA Sales reconciliation	-
		WRG van appeal	1,000.00
Total Income	<u><u>1,660.58</u></u>	<i>Excess of income/ expenditure</i>	<u><u>-638.26</u></u>
		Total Payments	<u><u>1,660.58</u></u>

### Notes:

---

Enid Hodgson

Treasurer

---