

MANCHESTER PACKET

Newsletter from the IWA

Manchester Branch



Lower Peak Forest Bridge 6 A Target for Adoption

Issue 44

March 2015

IWA Manchester Branch Committee

- President:** John Fletcher OBE **Region Chairman:** Alan Platt
- Vice President:** Jim Ramsbottom
- Chairman:** Position Vacant (*Vice-Chairman will receive these emails*)
E: chairman@manchester-iwa.co.uk
E: manchester@waterways.org.uk (*Branch email address*)
- Vice-Chairman:** Steve Connolly
- Secretary:** Steve Connolly
E: secretary@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Membership:** Denise Connolly
E: membership@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Treasurer:** Steve Connolly
E: treasurer@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Packet Editor:** Phil Broughton + Steve Connolly
E: editor@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Navigation & Technical: Exhibitions: Planning:** Steve Connolly
- Canal Society & Cruising Club Liaison:** John Palmer & Steve Broadhead
E: liaison@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Programme & Publicity:** Position Vacant
- Events:** Sue Day
E: events@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Sales:** Andrew Perry
E: sales@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Walks & Tours:** Steve Broadhead
E: tours@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Minute Secretary:** Barry McGuinness
E: minutes@manchester-iwa.co.uk
- Web Site:** Phil Broughton
E: webmaster@manchester-iwa.co.uk

Committee Members

Steve Broadhead 2 Holland Place Macclesfield SK11 7DD T: 01625 616467	Phil Broughton 30 Hillside Avenue Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9NG T: 01204 300541	Denise Connolly 27 Hooten Lane Leigh WN7 3BY T: 01942 679310	Steve Connolly 27 Hooten Lane Leigh WN7 3BY T: 01942 679310 M: 07710 554602
Sue Day 12 Oakwood View, Lower Beestow, Mossley; Ashton-under- Lyne OL5 9QL T: 01457 834863	Barry McGuinness 4 Pole Lane Failsworth M35 9PB	John Palmer 53 Southwood Road, Great Moor, Stockport SK2 7DJ	Andrew Perry The Boatyard, Worsley Dry Dock, Manchester M28 2WN T: 0161 793 6767

Contents

IWA Manchester Branch Committee.....	1
Editorial	3
Branch Chairman’s Column.....	4
Notice of Branch Annual General Meeting.....	5
Region Chairman’s Column.....	6
Work Party Reports	8
Waterway Restoration and Improvement.....	9
The Branch Web Site.	10
City Centre Cruises	12
The River Irwell	14
Nomination form for Manchester Branch Committee 2015 –18.....	17
North West Region Members’ Meeting	18
Marple Aqueduct Conservation and Railings.....	19
Manchester Branch Canals	21
Canal and Navigation Societies in the Region	21
Events in the Manchester Area.....	22
IWA Manchester Branch Winter Talks Programme.....	22

Editorial

As you may have noticed from the committee on page 1, we have been missing the contributions of Ian Price as both Chairman and Packet Editor & Diana Price as Treasurer. Since they moved south to be nearer to family, the Branch committee has been rather short handed. One consequence has been the long gap since Packet 43 in March 2014. Steve has stepped up from vice-Chairman to cover both the Chairman's and Treasurer's role and Phil has joined him to edit the Packet. We think the Packet is important in keeping in touch with branch members particularly if you don't get to meetings or access the website. We have included an article on the website in this issue.

Both the website and open meetings take regular time and effort to organise and it's disappointing for us if they are not well used or attended. Open meetings / winter talks have recently not been well attended, despite the warm and sociable surroundings kindly provided to us by City Centre Cruises on their trip boat Emmeline Pankhurst. The meetings are enjoyable and informative but they need members to support them if they are to continue. Can we make the meetings and website more attractive? – Let us know. PS the committee has decided to bribe you with cake at the remaining two meetings!

You will see from the AGM notice that this has been moved to April to allow time for it to be announced in the Packet. Please come along. If you can offer help in any small way (such as articles for the next packet or the web, suggesting or organising a speaker) it will be much valued – and there's no need to commit to committee membership to help.

Some events are covered briefly on page 22. These and many others throughout 2015 are described more fully on the events page of the web site.

Phil Broughton & Steve Connolly

The Disclaimer

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the IWA or of the Manchester Branch but are included as being of interest to our members

Branch website:

http://www.waterways.org.uk/regions_branches/north_west/Manchester/manchester

Branch Chairman's Column

Steve Connolly (*Vice Chairman*)

With the 2015 AGM fast approaching and a requirement for a year-end report, attention has focused on what we have or have not achieved in 2014.

First and foremost to my mind is that we still have no Chairman. It would appear that the popularity of "People Power" and its expansion has absorbed many competent and potential chairman candidates. As in boating, a firm hand on the tiller whilst having a clear view of the way ahead is very useful. This analogy is further appropriate if the skills required in steering through a busy section, keeping cool whilst waiting for others to "get organised," getting the best out of a situation and finally the satisfaction gained from a good day are all taken into account. However if I can muddle through as Vice-Chairman, I'm sure there must be people out there who could do a lot better.

Maintaining a meaningful profile for the branch has always been high on the list and last year was no exception. Our monthly Branch Work Parties make a tangible contribution to our local canals. I feel in addition that our volunteering is a good vehicle for improved awareness of the Branch and of IWA as a whole. The rational is, if you don't set a good example, how can you expect others to respond to your concerns. The kudos we have achieved from our monthly work parties is matched only by the satisfaction felt by those taking part, with good publicity enhancing our efforts.

Relations with CRT have been a little up and down, in the main caused by poor management response of our requirements during wide ranging locations for clean-ups. I think this is down to overworked managers being unable to keep track of multiple calls and e-mails whilst out on location. A sign of the times perhaps but just because you can receive an e-mail in the middle of nowhere doesn't mean you can process it properly. One the other hand CRT's efforts to be approachable are obvious with meetings at various levels now frequent.

Communication with branch members has been difficult without an Editor to manage the publication of the "Manchester Packet." This is

one of the reasons we have made an effort to put an edition together. Phil Broughton's efforts with the branch web-site are bearing fruit with an increase in e-mails to various committee members and much more content and information, www.waterways.org.uk/manchester/manchester However we are aware that some members are not familiar with computers so we shall attempt to publish a regular "Packet."

Of course the finest way to keep in touch is to come to the winter talks programme and have a chat. Whilst the current programme is drawing to a close, it has been a good season in the cosy warmth of City Centre Cruises restaurant boats. I say boats, in the plural; quite deliberately as we were obliged to use LS Lowry at our [January](#) meeting and it was



disconcerting to hear that she ran aground in Castlefield Basin, she draws only 3' 6"!

Notice of Branch Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting of the IWA Manchester Branch will take place on the 13th April 2015 on board City Centre Cruises restaurant boat Emmeline Pankhurst moored at Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4NB. The meeting will commence at 8 pm.

If you are considering a nomination to the committee please contact the Branch Secretary by phone or email. A nomination form is given on page 17 though nominations can also be taken on the day. Directions for the venue can be found on the Branch website (see Meetings Venues).

The AGM will be followed by talk by Chris Leah founder of the Wooden Canal Boats Society about "The Rejuvenation of Hazel". Non-members are welcome to attend.

Region Chairman's Column

Alan Platt

Firstly I must congratulate you on the sterling work the branch achieves in terms of work parties and its talks programme. You have also been instrumental in bringing the Manchester and Salford Junction underground canal to the notice of the world and in ensuring that it is not ignored when the redevelopment of the old Granada site is planned.

This is even more surprising given that you are currently operating without a Chairman or Treasurer as the Prices have departed for the south. This puts a heavy load on the rest of the committee, especially Steve Connolly and we badly need some new blood to step in and help out. It's your IWA and it both needs and deserves your active support.

There has been some talk on social websites that the IWA is too close to Canal and River Trust and doesn't have the relevance it did have. The IWA nationally and locally does work with CRT, as that is the best way of maintaining and improving the quality of their waterways, and together we can achieve more than each can separately. The change of mind as regards the route of HS2 at Fradley was initiated by the IWA, but our campaign was greatly helped by working with CRT, with their greater resources. Where we don't like what they are doing, or plan to do, and the intention to put railings on the offside wall of Marple Aqueduct is a good example, we will and do tell them loudly and clearly.

The IWA is still very relevant; CRT may be a Charity but it is a very different type of charity to the IWA, not least in that we are a membership body, and the membership is where we get our volunteers and committees from and who elect us, from Branch Committees to Trustees and to whom we are answerable. I hope and trust that anyone who wants to communicate with me as your region representative on the Trustee Board feels he can. I don't guarantee to agree with you, but I will listen and I will pass on your opinion even when I don't agree with your point. CRT has got a lot better at genuine communication over the last year or two, but they are not a membership organization as we are.

So if you have any grumbles or ideas, please come to me or your

committee first rather than social websites. A good opportunity will be the Region Social Day at Eldonian village on the Liverpool Link on Saturday April 25th, full details are later in this magazine

And finally the evenings are getting lighter and daffs are ready to flower in time for St David's day here in Wales so spring is coming and with it the chance to get out and about on the Waterways, whether on foot, bike or boat. Have a good summer.



The Stone Boat Building Company Ltd

For all your Boating and
Caravan Equipment
Calor Gas • Outdoor Clothing
Paints • DIY Fittings



No scanner? Go to qrpal.com

Tel: 01785 812688 **Fax:** 01785 811317

Email: stonechandlery@aol.com

www.stoneboatbuilding.co.uk

Newcastle Road, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8JZ

Work Party Reports

This article is a digest of reports appearing on the branch web-site; www.waterways.org.uk/manchester/work_party_reports

The big branch week-end clean-up took place in October 2014. at which some 20 or so heavy, solid 6' by 8' security panels were removed from Ducie Street Basin. This was not as well attended as last year's do, which is unfortunate as CRT put in a big effort in the shape of work boat, toilets and skips etc. This clean-up also saw the baptism of the branch's new kit of tools and the heavy duty Gazebo. This kit obtained with grants from The Manchester Guardian Society Trust, Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund, and Manchester City's, Clean City Project. We are very grateful to all these kind providers. We are now also the proud owners of some 20 grappling hooks; hooks that have already been out on loan to Warwickshire Branch and somewhere in the Stoke area.

November saw us on the Rochdale Canal at Newton Heath. Though this was a branch event CRT's support was essential, and this is where their management began to be questioned. However 8 volunteers collected 68 bags of rubbish, putting the litter pickers and black bags donated by the City Clean Project to very good use.



December's was a happy little do at Bridge 6 on the Lower Peak Forest Canal. We are keen to adopt this bridge for regular attention, but not until CRT play their part and repair the stonework and remove the Floating Pennywort we reported 18 months ago. Finishing early we retired across the road to The Cheshire Ring [Navigation Inn] for refreshments provided by Landlord Wayne.

The cold wet snow of January saw us on the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal, the highlights of the day being the jokes about how many men it takes to light a fire! We did eventually manage to burn some of

the preciously cut brushwood and by the time we packed up at 3 o'clock the fire was roaring nicely.

As the day of the February clean-up got underway memories of the weather on the January clean-up came to mind. But with the thought that we had survived that day we prepared in the car park alongside Bridge 1, the lift bridge. Much to the interest of the many dog walkers we kitted up, heard the safety talk and set out with the idea of a lunch stop at the junction with the Ashton. Such was the diligence of some participants that we had filled 12 litter bags by the time we reached the picnic area opposite the museum and a further 10 were filled there. As it was now approaching 2pm and the weather was getting frisky it was decided to call a halt. I was rather glad that the dog walkers were absent now as the general conversation was where most litter pickers would like to shove the many dog do bags that were collected. Of course the weather brightened as we drove away, any bets as to what it will be next time

This clean-up was a suggestion from a member and if you have a canal in need of some tlc please let us know.

Waterway Restoration and Improvement

Montgomery Canal Heritage Lottery Fund bid

The second round bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the Montgomery Canal requires evidence from a questionnaire. Your views are needed to help develop ideas and provide support for the application. It only takes a few minutes of your time and is very easy to do – just 7 questions with yes/no type answers. So please go onto the website: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Montgomery_Canal_consultation

Ringling the Ring

The "Ringling the Ring" project will see mooring sites around the Cheshire Ring improved and augmented. The first stage of the project will be to assess the 50 mooring sites that were included as part of an IWA Manchester Branch project in the 1980s, and will replace any missing mooring rings at those sites. Surveys of the existing and possible new mooring sites in our area will be made by the Manchester branch committee over the next few weeks.

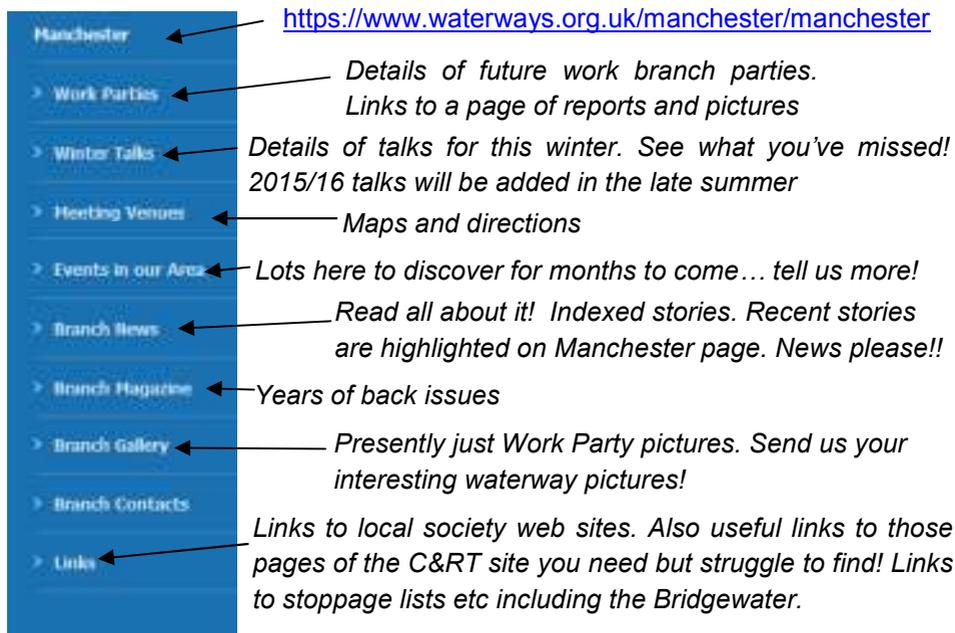
The Branch Web Site. Lots on it – but is it what you want?

We have been adding to the Manchester Branch pages of the IWA web site and we'd like to know what you think - and even more importantly what we need to do to make it more useful or interesting.

In many ways a web site is like both a newspaper and a reference book – we can use it to keep up-to-date and also to look something up. The problem is we don't have paid an army of journalists or researchers to provide the content – just a rather small committee!

Waterway enthusiasts have lots to talk about when we meet, often sharing things which fascinate, puzzle, surprise –or dare I say grumble about!. Perhaps you've seen or heard something newsworthy whilst cruising, walking or cycling. Have you, recently or in the past, taken a waterway picture you want to share? Is there an event we should know about but haven't listed? Maybe you just want to ask a question to which someone has an answer that others can share through the site.

So please get in touch – the web site is there to be used but it needs *you* to help to make it really good! Use the email and postal address for Phil Broughton on page 1 to send us ideas or material.



<https://www.waterways.org.uk/manchester/manchester>

- Manchester
- > Work Parties *Details of future work branch parties. Links to a page of reports and pictures*
- > Winter Talks *Details of talks for this winter. See what you've missed! 2015/16 talks will be added in the late summer*
- > Meeting Venues *Maps and directions*
- > Events in our Area *Lots here to discover for months to come... tell us more!*
- > Branch News *Read all about it! Indexed stories. Recent stories are highlighted on Manchester page. News please!!*
- > Branch Magazine *Years of back issues*
- > Branch Gallery *Presently just Work Party pictures. Send us your interesting waterway pictures!*
- > Branch Contacts *Links to local society web sites. Also useful links to those pages of the C&RT site you need but struggle to find! Links to stoppage lists etc including the Bridgewater.*
- > Links

PORTLAND BASIN MARINA



www.portlandbasinmarina.co.uk



Covered dry dock with DIY facilities available

- *BSS Examiner*
- *Dry Dock*
- *Hull Blacking*
- *Diesel*
- *Calor Gas*
- *Pump Out*
- *Elsan disposal point*
- *Call out*
- *Crane*
- *Shower*
- *Toilets*
- *Chandlery*
- *Day Boats*
- *Engine and boat servicing/repair*



- *Permanent and overnight mooring facilities with power and Wifi connection*

Tel: 0161 330 3133
Lower Alma Street,
Dukinfield,
Cheshire SK16 4SQ

City Centre Cruises

Manchester branch is grateful to City Centre Cruises for the free use of their boat for our Winter Open Meetings

Our family-run company have operated passenger boats in Manchester for over 25 years and our two vessels; LS Lowry and Emmeline Pankhurst are named after famous local people who were born, lived and worked in Manchester and Salford, the very areas we operate in.

We have been able to grow and develop the business with the changes of Castlefield and Salford Quays and these exciting developments have enhanced our business.

Our operation of passenger boats, we feel, has a reflection on what has happened in Manchester and Salford over the last twenty years and we are able to offer a unique experience with great food, and for people to enjoy the delights of the Inland Waterways and our city.

We have had a few odd occasions during our trips over the years. One incident that springs to mind was when Kellogg's sponsored a horse drawn boat going through the Bridgewater canal. Upon its arrival at Stretford, the horse unfortunately fell into the canal. The emergency services were called and the horse was brought back up onto the towpath. The company decided to stay overnight for the horse to recover. What nobody realised was they had left the tow rope in the canal. Later that evening we were passing by them and of course unfortunately picked the tow rope up on the prop! As you can imagine this caused all sorts of problems for us - and our passengers who had to disembark!

Another memorable occasion was when we had a telephone enquiry about a certain date and after looking in the diary I said "the boat was free that evening". A week or two later the customer confirmed that they wanted to book and when I gave her the charter cost she informed me that I had told her that the boat was free on that night! So ever since that day we always say the boat is "available"!

It is a pleasure working on the Inland Waterways and it is a privilege to introduce the general public to the heritage and joys of canal boating!



The Navigation Inn
01663 732 072



Bugsworth Basin Buxworth, SK23 7NE

*Friendly Country Inn
Log fires, Real ales, dogs
and children welcome
Home cooked traditional
English food
Food served every day*



Jan and Roger welcome you to the Navigation Inn.

Once owned by Pat Phoenix, aka Coronation Street's Elsie Tanner, the Navigation became an Inn over two hundred years ago and still retains its original character. Boaters, cyclists, families, walkers and their dogs - all are very welcome at the Inn.

The Inn is a Free House with regularly changing guest ales and a hearty menu of home cooked food.

Accommodation in five en-suite rooms.

It's more than just a pub, it's probably the best hostelry in the world!

Only twenty minutes north of Buxton, with a spacious car park, why not pay us a visit?

Please call or see
www.navigationinn.co.uk
for more information & menus



The River Irwell

“Pleasant Reminiscences of the 19th Century”

Whilst visiting friends at Christmas I was handed a book which their father had probably acquired at a car boot sale. The covers had suffered a hard life but inside were several hours of fascinating reading which was often quite amusing from my 21st century view point. Simply entitled “The River Irwell”, it was penned in 1907 by James Corbett “*Borough Engineer of Salford and Chairman of Committees of the Agecroft Rowing Club*”.

Corbett’s descriptions are not confined to the 19th century River which he describes in detail from Runcorn to Salford and Prestolee. The history of the river from the 16th century with its bridges (and cost of construction), adjoining buildings and commerce are well described and there are also chapters on the Bridgewater and Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canals as well as much about angling and rowing.

He begins by describing the view down river from Hunts Bank around 1840 and continues down to Runcorn:

“...we should see a closely packed mass of buildings of very poor quality, with narrow pathways between them, and several flights of steps partly cut in the red sandstone rock of the steep river bank, by which the people carried up water from the river for various domestic purposes; there being as yet no adequate waterworks for the town.

Instead of Victoria Bridge there was the ancient and picturesque Salford Bridge.”

[Erected in 1538]. “The original bridge on this site was the first bridge across the Irwell; it was a wooden structure, erected about the year 1365.” [This came complete with a chapel] “where prayers were wont to be made for the repose of the soul of the founder” [Thomas de Bathe].



Salford Bridge

Accident

On the Salford side above the bridge was a sloping gravel bank, approached from Chapel Street by narrow road called Stanihurst.

“On this sloping river bank were a number of rowing boats for hire in ‘Mary Ann’s Boathouse.’ It was a common practice to drive horses down this bank to drink at the river, or to have their coach wheels washed, and in November 1798, a gentleman’s carriage was so taken by the coachman nearly at midnight; but the river was somewhat in flood, and horses, coach, and man were washed away. The man jumped on a dyer’s flat and escaped, the coach and horses got jammed in New Bailey Bridge, [now Blackfriars] and next day eight persons were drowned there by the giving way of a projecting wooden shed, from which eleven people were looking at the wrecked coach. One of the three survivors was saved by a dog.

Beautiful Gardens

On the Manchester side, just below the 1839 Victoria Bridge, there was a very busy landing stage, connected in later years with “Ben Lang’s Music Hall,” where many



Victoria Bridge

rowing boats were on hire, and where small steamers started for pleasure trips down the river to Pomona Gardens and other holiday resorts.”

[A steamer and pleasure boats are in the photograph.]

Cargo and Packet Boats

“This Victoria Music Hall, popularly known as “Ben Lang’s,” was a building five storeys high above the street, and seven above the river, with the large hall at the top Mr. Lang owned the paddle steamers “Punch,” “Judy,” and two others which plied on the river, each capable of carrying between 100 and 200 passengers. Cargo barges were frequently poled up the river to Hunts Bank, bringing timber to a yard where the Exchange Station now stands”

Further downstream was the New Bailey Bridge (now Albert Bridge)

“The New Bailey Landing Stage, on the Salford side, was the busiest place on the river fifty or sixty years ago; here started the Packet Boats for Warrington or Runcorn, under the control of Captain Hindley. These boats generally started about 8 a.m. They were

lightly-built, roomy barges about sixty-six feet by fifteen feet, drawn by two or more horses ridden by jockey-boys; they often went down stream at a brisk trot, but against even a slight stream their pace was reduced to a walk. The cabins and wide decks accommodated large numbers of passengers who took considerable luggage with them including "pieces" of cotton or silk from the hand looms then in common use; and they had also a light goods traffic. They formed practically the only public conveyances to many villages and detached dwellings near the river, and their cheap transit was much appreciated, as they would stop to suit passengers at any little stage at the water side.



Here also started the Swift Packet Boats, smaller boats of finer form, restricted to passenger traffic, drawn by two or three high-class horses, with red-jacketed jockeys, the leader with a horn to warn all others to give way, and on May

Day all decorated with ribbons and small bells. These boats were towed at a fast trot, or sometimes at a gallop; in fact, their horses were as good and fast as the mail coach horses. The lockmen put aside for them all other boats; the men with slow barges, and even those with the ordinary Packet Boats, dropped their tow-lines and stood admiring the Swift Packet gliding pleasantly past them on its course. These packets started at any hour of the day or night, timed to catch the first ebb of the tide at Runcorn, where passengers for Liverpool were transferred to a larger boat, to go with the tide down the Mersey."

When a strong wind blew favourably the Swift Packet sometimes carried a big square sail, and the horses had to gallop fast to keep ahead of the boat.

I have often been on these boats, and it was a very pleasant journey down "Th' owd river," past the woodland of Trafford Park, and many farms and orchards; past pleasure parties in small steamers and row-boats, or lurching on the river banks; and in earlier years, they had passed many fishermen with good fishing especially eel catchers near the bright brooks joining the river on its way; and past the heavy ferry-

boats carrying cattle, carts, &c., across the river at numerous ferries



Irlam Ferry & Boathouse Inn

In fact, there were nearly all the wayside incidents that delighted travellers by stage coach, and instead of the jolting and rumbling of wheels a smooth, gliding motion and a musical ripple at the bows; altogether the most delightful mode of travelling in those days.

Those old-time Swift Packets are out of date now as completely as their contemporaries the stage coaches but even now in suitable weather, and not during a hot drought, it is very pleasant to traverse the grand successor of "Th owd river", the Manchester Ship Canal, on the deck of a great ocean steamer whose lofty height affords many a fine view over the surrounding countryside.

There are lots more of James Corbett's recollections in the book – perhaps in a future issue of The Manchester Packet I will pick out a few about the Bridgewater and Bolton Bury Manchester Canals.

Nomination form for Manchester Branch Committee 2015 –18

I (name)*of

Address

Agree to accept nomination for election to the Committee of The IWA Manchester Branch for 2015/2018.

Signed

Proposed by*

SignatureDate:

Seconded by*

SignatureDate:

NB: Nominee, proposer and seconder must be members of the IWA in good standing.

(*Block Capitals please. Photocopies or emails of this form accepted)

Please send to: Branch Secretary, Steve Connolly 27 Hooten lane Leigh WN7 3BY
OR by email to secretary@manchester-iwa.co.uk

North West Region Members' Meeting

Saturday April 25th 2015 Eldonian Village Hall, Liverpool
Burlington St, (off Vauxhall Rd.) Liverpool, Merseyside, L3 6LG.



This is an open social event for all IWA members to enjoy.

Come along and see what's going on in the North West Region, share your experiences and views in a convivial atmosphere.

Eldonian Village - A great insight into the challenges and solutions involved with urban canal developments along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Liverpool

An opportunity to see Stanley locks and get an early view of the new dockside developments proposed in the area.

Programme

10:30 Arrival and Coffee.

11:00 Welcome, review of the year and general discussion.

12:00 Region Awards for significant achievements.

12:30 Buffet Lunch

13:30 Short presentation on history and progress of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal including Liverpool Link, Stanley Locks and the Northern dockland developments

14:00 Guided walk round the area.

Cost £10 (pay on the day) - Please book in advance via Alan Platt:

alan.platt@waterways.org.uk,

Tel 01352 720649 or Argoed, Pen y Cefn Rd, Caerwys, CH7 5BH

Directions on website -

www.waterways.org.uk/branches_regions/north_west/north_west

Marple Aqueduct Conservation and Railings

Conservation work has started on and around the Marple Aqueduct. The work, costing £2.3 million (including a grant of £1.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund) over the next three years, will, reveal, conserve and interpret Oldknow's legacy and combine archaeology, learning and volunteering opportunities.

Below the aqueduct trees have been removed opening up views; its stonework is being repaired and re-pointed and ironwork will be painted or replaced. Graffiti and plant growth that are damaging the structure are being removed. Path improvements have started and new viewing platforms will be created to allow visitors to appreciate the restored structure and its setting.

The towpath across the aqueduct is closed (February 2015) so track progress on the C&RT web site <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk> .

Railings or a fence are being considered on the off-side of the aqueduct. C&RT held a consultancy up to the end of January to which IWA nationally and Manchester Branch responded. The Branch response supports the national one and is given below.

"We welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the proposal to install railings along the offside parapet of Marple Aqueduct as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Revealing Oldknow's Legacy project.

Manchester Branch of the Inland Waterways welcomes this opportunity to respond at a local level whilst not diminishing the points raised by our National Committee.

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) is a registered charity, founded in 1946, which advocates the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration and development of the inland waterways for public benefit. We have 16,000 members including 400 corporate members with a combined membership representing a voice of well over 50,000 people supporting and involved with the inland waterways.

We, at Manchester Branch, have taken issue in the past with proposals and suggestions for canal safety, especially with railings. We have found that far from any prohibitive solution the railings have become at best an impediment to

any rescue efforts or at worst a challenge to be overcome by some of those it was designed to protect/deter. We feel that safety around water is best served by education and awareness.

Whilst we would not wish to suggest that a structure of historic significance should be more important than a person's welfare, we would like to point out that it is practically impossible to legislate against bravado and self harm.

We would make the suggestion that adequate signage be considered along with the provision of small [6cm] protruding blocks or pyramids to deter persons from jumping across to the offside of the canal or walking too close to the edge of the offside parapet.

We would, in all cases, appreciate the opportunity to consult with all future aspects of this project."

THORN MARINE

Chandlery * Gas Supplies * Boat Hire

For All Your Boating needs

***164a London Road, Stockton Heath, WARRINGTON, WA4 1TU
On the Bridgewater Canal next to London Road Bridge.***

Tel: 01925 265129.

Fax: 01925 211370.

Email: sales@thornmarine.co.uk

Website: www.thornmarine.co.uk

Manchester Branch Canals

The Bridgewater Canal, The Rochdale Canal, The Ashton Canal, The Huddersfield Narrow Canal, The Lower Peak Forest Canal, The Macclesfield Canal, The Manchester Ship Canal.

In addition there are four restorations in progress within the Manchester Branch:

Hollinwood Canal; The Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal; The Stockport Branch Canal; Bugsworth Basin

Canal and Navigation Societies in the Region

Macclesfield Canal Society

email: secretary@macclesfieldcanal.org.uk

Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal Society

email: manchesterboltonandburycs@waterways.org.uk

Hollinwood Canal Society

email hcs@hollinwoodcanal.co.uk

Manchester & Stockport Canal Society

email: nb.jemsabi@ntlworld.com

Bugsworth Basin Heritage Trust (previously IWPS) - Bugsworth Basin

email: ian@theedgars.co.uk

Wooden Canal Boat Society on the Ashton canal in Greater Manchester. Less than 200 wooden working boats now survive on over 2000 miles of inland waterways. The W.C.B.S. is saving as many as it can, when restored they function not as dead museum pieces but as living working boats serving today's community. As well as creating a fully functional heritage boatyard the Society is now involved in a range of activities aimed at preserving and using wooden narrow boats.

Tel. 0161 330 8422 Email: general@wcbs.org.uk Website: www.wcbs.org.uk/

The Horse Boating Society

The Horse Boating Society was formed in 2001 at the Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port. The primary aim of the Society is to preserve and promote horseboating and has about 100 members and with other organisations also affiliated, the Society represents over 1000 in total.

Email: enquiries@horseboating.org.uk

Website: <http://www.horseboating.org.uk>

Events in the Manchester Area

March 14/15	Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society Work Party
April 3-6	Easter Rally of Boats - Bugsworth Basin
April 12	Northern Canals Association Meeting Sankey Canal Restoration Society
April 12	Annual IWA River Mersey Convoy (weather permitting).
April 18/19	Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society Work Party
April 26	St George and the Dragon Day – Standedge Horse Boating Society (HBS)
May 17	Horses at Work – Standedge Horse Boating Society (HBS)
May 25	A Celebration of Legging the Tunnel – Standedge Horse Boating Society (HBS)
May 6-7	Gardener Engine Rally - Bugsworth Basin
June 6-14	Saddleworth Festival of Arts
June 4-5	Marple 150 & Biennial Marple Locks Festival (June 5 th)

Attend these events in our IWA area, whether on foot, by car, or by boat, as spectator, participant, crew, stall holder etc. Offer organisers help if you can.

IWA Manchester Branch Winter Talks Programme

March & April 2015

Our Open Meetings are held on onboard the Trip Boat Emmeline Pankhurst moored on Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4JR commencing at 19:45. on the 2nd Monday in the month from October to April, commencing 7:45pm See our Website Venues Page for details and a map.

09 March 2015

The Stockport Branch

David Sumner

13 April 2015

Annual General meeting: followed by:

Hazel Rejuvenated

Chris Leah

The Branch funds speaker's expenses so a donation on the night is appreciated.

A monthly email reminder of Meetings & events is sent to Branch members. If you do not receive this or are not a member, email webmaster@manchester-iwa.co.uk

If there are any subjects, or if you know of an interesting talk, please let the editor know (contact details are on page 1).



PROPELLER AND STERN GEAR SPECIALIST

J. Crowther (Royton) Limited have been in the business of designing and manufacturing propellers and stern gear for over 50 years, so we think we know the business. We design and manufacture propellers up to 42-in diameter and stern gear shafts up to 3-in diameter with all necessary forward and aft glands, seals, stern tubes etc. In fact we take care of everything for you on the stern gear side.

Throughout the marine industry we are particularly known for our special range of propellers including our High Efficiency and 'C' patterns which have proven highly successful for the inland waterways application.

At the beginning of 1991, we decided to apply for BS5750 Part II for Quality Assurance as an added guarantee to our customers and we were awarded our registration in September 1991 and all our propellers and stern gear, including shafts and glands, are backed by this certificate.

In addition we offer a complete repair and refurbishment service for your propellers, shafts and stern gear, etc.

As well as our own manufactured products, we also supply the well known and proven 'C' Grease which has been specially formulated for our company for use in all types of stern gear or any application where there is water present.

Throughout the inland waterways system, our company is well known and we have a reputation for giving a service second to none no matter how large or small your requirements.

**Eden Works, Belgrave Mill, Honeywell Lane,
Oldham, OL8 2JP**

Tel: 0161 652 4234 Fax: 0161 627 4265

Marine Engineers & Sole Manufacturers of Tanks Adjustable Bookcase Strip