



The Inland
Waterways
Association

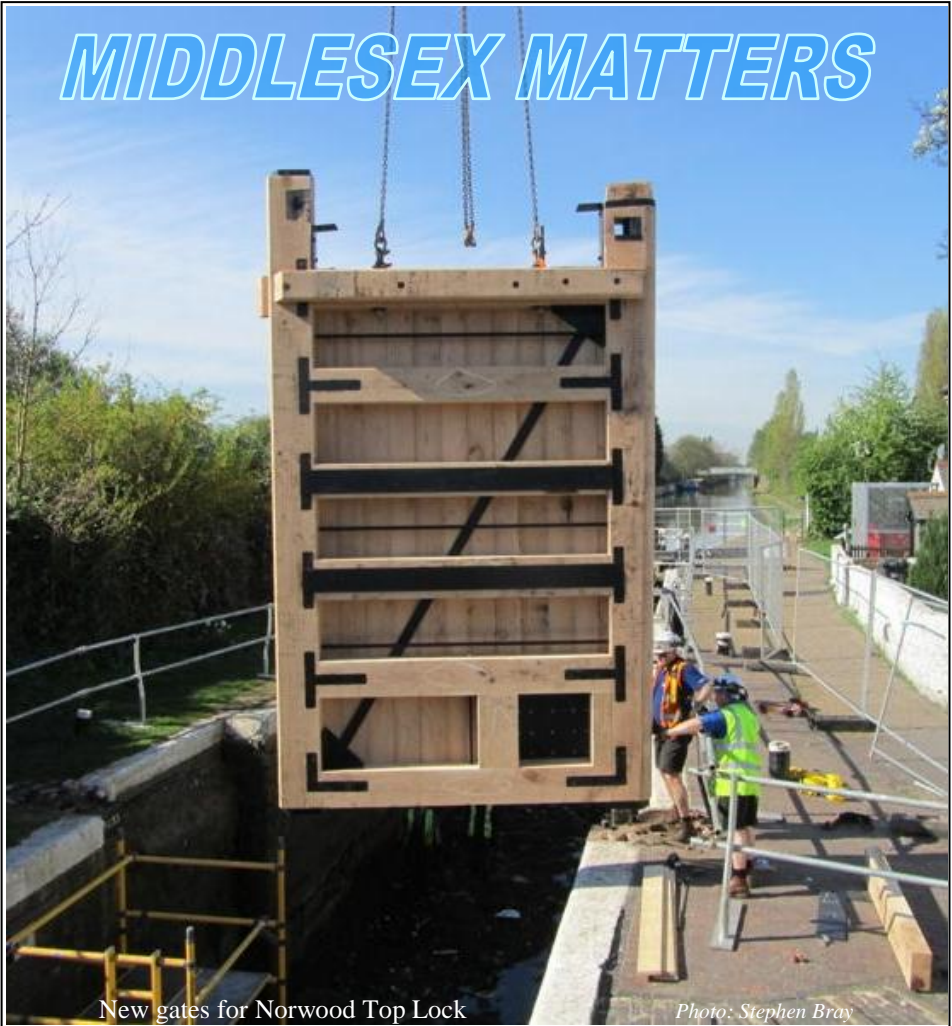
MIDDLESEX BRANCH

Middlesex Branch Newsletter

email: middlesex.newsletter@waterways.org.uk

No. 28 Autumn 2011

MIDDLESEX MATTERS



New gates for Norwood Top Lock

Photo: Stephen Bray

Diary Dates 2011-12 social evenings

8th November 2011

Liam D'Arcy Brown - The Grand Canal of China

10th January - 2012

Friends of Slough Canal - The History and Future of the Slough Arm

7th February - 2012

The work of the Hillingdon Narrowboats Association

13th March - 2012

Branch annual general meeting and social evening. Speaker tba.

10th April

David Bright (Brentford Heritage Guide and a member of the committee of the

Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society) - An Armchair Tour of Brentford

8th May

Speaker tba.

12th June

IWA and Hillingdon Canal Club Skittles Match

11th September

Theo Thomas - The Work of Thames 21

9th October

Eileen Bowlt (Chairman of Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society) talking on two hundred years of Ruislip reservoir.

13th November

Speaker tba

Please note that the Middlesex Branch does not hold social meetings in July, August or December.

For more information contact the Social Secretary Lucy Smith on, middlesex.socials@waterways.org.uk or 07947 451376

Middlesex Branch social evenings are held at Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Rd, Uxbridge.

Entrance is free and all are welcome including non members.

MIDDLESEX BRANCH

Annual General Meeting and Social Evening

at

HILLINGDON CANAL CLUB HQ

UXBRIDGE WHARF

WATERLOO ROAD

UXBRIDGE UB8 2QX

Tuesday 13th March 2012 at 8pm

Bar open from 7.30

Nominations for election to the Branch Committee must be received by the Secretary by 13th March 2012.

Branch Secretary:- Robin Bishop, 11 Lichfield Road, Cricklewood, London NW2 2RE.
email:- robinebishop@tiscali.co.uk

From the Region Chairman Paul Strudwick

As your newly elected region chairperson, I thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself to you through your branch magazine. I am a previous chairperson of Chelmsford Branch and have been on its committee since the mid '80s. Between 2007 and 2010 I was a directly elected trustee and already represent London on the National Navigation Committee and Promotions Committee. My love affair with boating began at the age of 11 when my uncle taught me to sail on the Norfolk Boards, and my wife and I have owned a boat on the canals for nearly thirty years. During most of this time, our boats have been moored in the London area and we have won the best decorated boat at Canalway Cavalcade and been runner up several times.

Next year is going to be a challenging one for IWA in general and London Region in particular. To ensure we have the maximum representation on the new Waterways Charity we need to widen the membership of the association so that others recognise us as being a broad "church" representing not only the boating and heritage interests but also all other users such as walkers and casual visitors. We also need to broaden the age profile of the association. One way that the branch can help in this is to work with your local British Waterways volunteer co-ordinators to arrange working parties on their behalf. If you can help in organising working parties please give your chairperson a call. I am certain they would be pleased to hear from you. Whilst on the theme of working parties we can all help in the preparation for the 2012 Olympics. Over the next year leading up to the games we will be joining with others to make the canal network and rivers round London look at their best ready for the thousands of visitors to the event. Keep a lookout for the publicity that will be starting in January. Clean-up events in your area, will be starting from March.

This year Cavalcade takes on a special importance with no National Festival being held. We need to try and make this one even more memorable to make certain IWA's campaigning message is heard by the widest possible audience. There is also the opportunity of those of you with boats to join the flotilla on the Thames and represent the IWA in this great spectacle; have a look at

thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org

The money on offer from the government for the new charity is well below that needed for a sustainable future. Whilst there might be some "wriggle room" on the settlement on offer and the removal of the dead hand of the Treasury from BW will allow the charity to use their assets more profitably the threat to the waterways caused by the economic situation is real and on-going. We have come a long way over the last few years, one of our long term aims, establishing a national waterways conservancy is nearly in our grasp. To ensure that the embryonic Canal & River Trust is not starved of sufficient funds it will need firm leadership. I believe the only organisation that can give that leadership on a national level is the Inland Waterways Association. At a local level you can help by supporting the branch to lobby for the future of our local waterways.

I will try to write a few words for every future edition of your magazine but it is quite difficult to produce up to date and relevant reports as each branch magazine has a slightly different publishing schedule.

Finally can I publicly thank Roger Squires for all the work he has done in looking after the region as acting chairperson, since the previous chairperson had to resign due to ill health. He will be a very hard act to follow.

Paul Strudwick

London Region Chairman

Save Our Spirit



The Hillingdon Narrowboats Association has launched an appeal to help save their narrowboat 'Spirit of 57'. It is specially equipped to carry people with disabilities or in wheelchairs and was originally purchased by the Hillingdon Partnership Trust and managed by the Hillingdon Narrowboats Association for around 20 years.

Hillingdon Partnership Trust has put the boat up for sale in order to raise funds.

www.hna.org.uk.

Mooring restrictions during the Olympics

Earlier this year the police laid down the rules about moorings during the Olympics, setting out definite restrictions. British Waterways had attempted to negotiate moorings but these would not be allowed, the restrictions are firmly established with no concession.

The restrictions, from the 3rd July until the 10th September 2012, are:

Regent's Canal, Little Venice to Limehouse Basin
Hertford Union Canal
Limehouse Cut

River Lee Navigation from Bow Locks to above Hackney Marshes (Lea Bridge Road).

The following locks will be closed:
Hertford Union Bottom Lock.
Commercial Road Lock.

Also from the same period moorings will be temporarily suspended along a section of the Lee Navigation between the A12 and the A11 road bridge in Bromley-by-Bow, and a section of the eastern end of the Hertford Union Canal, in Hackney Wick.

The Annual General Meeting
of the
London Region of the Inland Waterways Association
will take place at
8pm on Monday 12th March 2012
at
The New Inn,
90 High Street
Roydon, Essex, CM19 5EE.

Nominations for election to the Region Committee must be received by the Secretary by 12th March 2012.

Region Secretary- Robin Bishop, 11 Lichfield Road, Cricklewood, London NW2 2RE.
email:- :- robinebishop@tiscali.co.uk

HS2 rail route to slice through HOAC

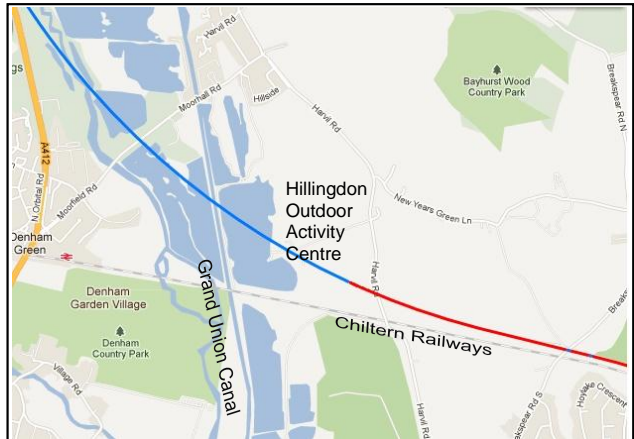
The proposed high-speed rail network route shows the track slicing through the middle of the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre on a two mile viaduct that carries the track across the Grand Union Canal near Denham.

Campaigners against the HS2 have claimed that this route would mean the closure of the activity centre.

HOAC is a lively water sports and activity centre, used by more than 20,000 children a year. Established since 1969, it has considerable expertise in providing quality tuition for sailing, canoeing and other water activities on the 45-acre lake in a rural setting. It is managed as an educational charity in partnership with the London Borough of Hillingdon.

The London terminus would be a redeveloped Euston station serving both high-speed and conventional lines.

Leaving Euston, the route would descend into a tunnel for about four and a half miles, surfacing at a new interchange station at Old Oak Common in west London. Passengers would be able to interchange here with Crossrail, the Heathrow Express, the Great Western Main Line and other local public transport. From Old Oak Common towards the M25, the route would run along the Chiltern Line corridor to West Ruislip and then cross the Colne Valley on a two-mile long viaduct.



The two mile viaduct slices through the middle of the outdoor activity centre



The Grand Union where the Chiltern Railway line crosses just by HOAC

Pictures from in and around the Branch area



Andrew West's 40ft narrowboat, Saxon, from St Pancras Cruising Club caught on the cill at Kentish Town lock, Camden. The lock was out of action for almost 48 hours.



Black Jack's Mill alongside the Grand Union at Black Jack's Lock, Harefield.



New gates being installed at Norwood top lock.

Below: Side ponds get cleared on the Hanwell locks.



Complaints about cyclists on the Regent's Canal

BW is coming under more pressure to do something about the increasing number and speed of cyclists on the Canal towpath. During September people from Regent's Canal at Angel held an impromptu protest along with pupils from Hanover School, as the daily walk to school had become a frightening experience, with children risking injury.

The protestors want British Waterways to introduce measures to slow cyclists down. The parents believe that the expensive ramps installed by British Waterways on the towpath at nearby Danbury Bridge are 'virtually useless', as cyclists simply ride over or around them.

Open House London 2011

Guided walks of the Hanwell flight of locks were provided by committee members Lucy Smith and Stephen Bray as part of Open House London 2011 over the weekend of 17-18 September. As in previous years, this was a very popular event and eight walks over the two days attracted around 200 visitors.

CART rolls into town

On Thursday 6th October British Waterways announced that the new name for the charity taking over will be **Canal & River Trust**.

The decision follows extensive public and internal consultation and market research into the replacement for the name and symbol of British Waterways.

There will also be a new logo, shown right, designed free of charge by the agency Pentagram. They produced the original logo 20 years ago. Presumably this means that the entire signage will now have to be replaced.



Vandals attack Northolt wooden bridge

Following the recent inner city riots the wooden footbridge over the Paddington Arm at Northolt became the target of copy-cat vandals. On Wednesday 10 August 2011 arsonists set fire to the bridge. Although not seriously damaged, British Waterways was concerned for the safety of boats passing underneath. Boat traffic was halted and the Paddington Arm closed whilst the safety issue was resolved.

The local council is undertaking the repairs but no time-scale has been given.

MIDDLESEX MUSINGS



End of the line?

The proposed route for the new high speed railway is shown cutting through the middle of the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre (HOAC). Is this the end of the line for HOAC? The viaduct cuts right through the complex, which includes changing rooms, cafe, function rooms and management offices as well as boat and equipment storage.

The disruption of the centre during the building of the two mile viaduct will be catastrophic for its continued operation. The people who use HOAC, both adults and youngsters, will be denied a high quality recreation and training facility.

Although the proposed route runs alongside the Chiltern Line for some way, it seems strange to me why it can't continue a bit further and cross the Grand Union canal at the same point as the Chiltern Line. This is only a short distance, possibly two hundred yards, but it would miss HOAC altogether.

Government targets

The government is committed to cutting UK emissions of CO₂ to 34 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020. The government's website suggests that driving a car at 50mph instead of 70 mph can improve fuel economy by 25%. Increasing motorway speed limits from 70 to 80mph is hardly going to help the CO₂ target.

Likewise the introduction of HS2, the installed power required to drive the train rises from 4MW, for classic 200kph rail, to 20MW for HS2 at 400kph. Reductions in CO₂ emissions? Where from?

Another concern for the government is childhood obesity. If they're that concerned about it, why force the closure of Hillingdon

Outdoor Activity Centre used by 20,000 children every year.

BW buying more marinas

Why is British Waterways Marinas Ltd buying even more marinas with its latest purchase of Cowroast Marina? Berth occupancy has now fallen from 81% to 75%, so one in four berths are now empty. And all this at a time when the whole structure of BW is due to be changed.

BWML issued a statement 'This allows us to return a consistent long term stream of dividend income to our holding company, British Waterways'. This has all the hallmarks of some mission statement thought up by graduates at a brainstorming session during a teambuilding exercise. I'm not aware of any timetable being released about when this 'stream of dividend income' is likely to start. I look forward to the day when the coffers of BW start to fill with the stream of dividend income.

The Olympic message

Following the Met's refusal to allow moorings near the Olympics, BW has had to face up to the fact that the police will not take any sort of risk. Previously anticipated visitor moorings will be severely restricted.

Terry Liddle
Editor.

The IWA National Festival – report by Robin Bishop

This was held at Snobnall Fields, Burton on Trent, on the Trent and Mersey Canal from Friday 29th to Sunday 31st July 2011.

On **Monday** 25th July I drove up to Burton on Trent from Cosgrove where I had been staying the previous weekend. I arrived earlier as a member of the Waterways Recovery Group site crew that set up the Festival site.

After going through the Security gate I was met in the WRG compound by our admin clerk Mitch Gozna who booked my arrival on site. Shortly afterwards I met Mike Harlock at his motorhome on the camping pitch where we were staying.

We later joined others in the WRG compound marquee. Four team leaders were assigned along with individual team members. We stayed in these teams for most of the week. On **Thursday** most of the traders were arriving at different times throughout the day to get set up on site. Once they had passed through the checking-in point we assisted the Commercial Team by escorting the traders to their location on the Festival site by walking in front of their vehicles.

On **Friday** the festival opened.

The IWA and Hall A marquees were constructed with heavy duty staging type floor panels and no carpets. These floor panels required cleaning each day for which a very heavy special scrubbing machine was hired. However, due to the very dry weather it was found to be better to use a large industrial vacuum cleaner instead.

The IWA marquee was of the later design concept, as per the last two years and consisted of three sections all interlinked. One section had an open plan sales area with till points. The centre section was a children's play area complete with toy diggers and dumpers etc. to introduce the

youngsters to the delights of canal restoration. This section also had a refreshment area. The third section was a recruiting and Restoration area complete with a WRG van parked outside the front. There was also a powerful WRG display and items of equipment and tools on show. At the start of the Festival I changed my red WRG tee shirt for an IWA blue tee shirt as I worked on the Branch Sales Stand.

Our Branch Sales Stand was in a good position this year and had a lot of passing trade. We were located facing the WRG section of the main IWA Marquee.

We had our normal full range of items for sale plus several secondhand items that have been given to us to sell to raise money. We were also kept busy answering many questions about the waterways and the changing of BW into a National Charity. Our display map of London's waterways was also in position along with the IWA display panels, which included a map of the complete waterways system.

The previously forecast weather turned up over the weekend of the Festival with warm sunny weather on all 3 days. There were plenty of people queuing at the gates to come in each day.

On **Monday** it was all over, and time to start putting it all away again. The tasks also included craning and fencing.

Tuesday. The picnic tables were folded away and stacked in their stillages.

Wednesday. A thorough litter picking of the site was carried out.

Thursday. The remaining perimeter fencing was taken down and that was that for another year.

Robin Bishop

Sales Officer and WRG Volunteer

AND *almost* FINALLY

Proposed dates for our committee meetings for 2012 are given below. Members are welcome to attend. Meetings start at 8.00pm at the Hillingdon Canal Club, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge UB8 2QX.

24 Jan	27Mar	22 May
16 Jul	25 Sept	27 Nov

YOUR BRANCH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Keith Clayton	020 8573 0883	keith_clayton_1955@yahoo.co.uk
VICE CHAIRMAN			
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OTHER MEMBERS	Stephen Bray		Michael Phillips

The newsletter welcomes communications from readers. If you have a point to make, a question to ask, or an interesting picture or article worthy of publication send it to us at

Middlesex Matters,
39 Hillview Gardens,
Harrow, Middlesex HA2 6HJ

Email to: middlesex.newsletter@waterways.org.uk.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Terry Liddle

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The next publication will be the spring 2012 edition, issue number 29.

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Inland Waterways Association or of its London Region or of its Middlesex Branch. They are however published as being of interest to our members and readers

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The Inland Waterways Association is a charity campaigning for the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration and development of the inland waterways and is a non profit distributing company limited by guarantee registered in England number 612245 registered as a charity number 212342 whose registered office is at:

Island House, Moor Road, Chesham. HP5 1WA.

Tel. 01494 783453

<http://www.waterways.org.uk>

Reflections on Reflections



Floating dry-dock moored at Denham. Boats enter through the open front, which is then stopped and the water pumped out, leaving the boat high and dry for cleaning and painting

Gongoozler: an idle and inquisitive person who stands staring for prolonged periods at anything out of the common.

H.R. De Salis, *A Handbook of Inland Navigation* (1901)

For the ACS

Local Area Network in Australia:
The LAN down under.

Also...

Did you know that NiCad batteries are usually given out free of charge?

The thief who stole a calendar this October got away with just three months.

Bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it!

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.



Nope