

A & W BRANCH ANNUAL LUNCH



The Inland
Waterways
Association

Registered Charity No. 310402

SOUTH WEST REGION COMMITTEES

South West Region Committee:

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Secretary: Peter Kelly southwest@waterways.org.uk
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Branch Chairmen: *ex officio*

Avon & Wilts Branch Committee:

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Chairman: John Gornall johnngornall@uwclub.net
& Membership: 0117 3296470
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0117 9720423
Committee: Tim Wheeldon John Lewis.
Salisbury Group: Ron & Myra Glover glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
01722 710322
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Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch Committee:

Chairman & Publicity: Roger Holmes rogervectis@aol.com
Hon. Secretary: Susan Holmes rogervectis@aol.com
Hon. Treasurer: Graham Ettles ettles@which.net
Minutes Secretary: Martin Phillips martin@douglas-phillips.org.uk
Committee: Maggie Jones David Ramsey
Belinda Sprigg Martin Turner

South Wales Branch Committee:

Chairman: Margaret Gwalter iwa@gwalter.co.uk
Hon. Secretary: Pat Cleary southwales@waterways.org.uk
Hon. Treasurer: Henry Brown
Membership: Tony Pugh
Committee: Jude Biss Bill Hockey Mike Synan

West Country Branch Committee:

Chairman: Adam Pilgrim adam@tabra99.eclipse.co.uk
01823 672992
Hon. Secretary: Vacant
Hon Treasurer: Mike Moore
Committee: Chris Jewell Jane Pilgrim Peter Kelly

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Inland Waterways Association or of the South West Region. They are, however, published as being of interest to our members and readers.

REGION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are at the start of a year that looks as if it could be very interesting. The preparations for the start of the Canal and River Trust on 1 April are continuing and despite the amount of work that remains to be done, we are being assured that the new trust will take over the British Waterways Navigations in England and Wales on that date. The major problem with underfunding has not yet been resolved and although we are being told that the amount of grant in aid is being reviewed there is no news yet of how much CART will receive. IWA has calculated that the shortfall on the previous figures is over £30 million a year so there will need to be significant improvement in the settlement if the trust is to start off in a financially viable position.

This edition of Sou'Wester contains the notices of the Branches and Region AGM's in March and April. This is an opportunity for you to get a little more involved in helping IWA locally. As always we are looking for some new people to bring fresh ideas and experiences to help us achieve what we all want to see for our lovely waterways in the South West. It doesn't matter if you have never been involved in helping to run a branch or the region as there are lots of people around who will be happy to help. So don't be shy come along to one of the AGM's and join in helping to make IWA even more successful.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as Regional Chairman before the National AGM in September. A change in my personal situation means that I will be moving to France. I have really enjoyed being Chairman for the last two years and have met a lot of lovely people who are very passionate about our waterways. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be Chairman and I want to thank all of you who have helped and befriended me. We will be keeping our boat in England so we will be taking a great deal of interest in what happens over the next few years.

It has been a very mild winter so far and no doubt spring will soon be with us. So we can all look forward to another year of fun and enjoyment on the fantastic waterways in the South West.

Chris Birks

Annual General Meetings

Inland Waterways Association

South West Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 2012 Annual General Meetings of the South West Region, and the several Branches within that Region, will be held as follows:

South West Region: 12.00 noon, Saturday 14 April 2012, Fourteen Locks Canal Visitor Centre, Cwm Lane, Rogerstone, Newport.

Avon & Wilts Branch: 7.30 pm Thursday 29th March 2012.
At the Friends Life Sports and Social Club, Station Road, Henbury, Bristol BS10 7TB (just off Cribbs Causeway)

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch: 7:30 pm 1 March 2012, Gloucester Yacht Club, Gloucester Docks, Gloucester.

South Wales Branch: 7 pm Thursday 15th March 2012 in the Beulah United Reform Church Hall, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

West Country Branch: 2.00 p.m., Saturday 24 March 2012, Martlet Inn, Langford Budville, Somerset.

Annual General Meetings

Inland Waterways Association

South West Region

AGENDA

(Applicable at all General Meetings)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings held subsequently; and matters rising from these meetings.
3. Branch Chairman's Report (*Not for Region AGM*)
4. Region Chairman's Report.
5. Presentation of Account's. (*Not for Region AGM*)
6. Election of Committee. (See notes below)
7. Any items requested by members of the Branch or Region.

Notes: 1. *Candidates for election to a Region or Branch Committee must be members of the relevant Branch or Region and the candidate must indicate his/her willingness to stand.*

2. *All elected members of a Region or Branch committee who have held office for a term of three years have to retire, as does any member co-opted during the committee meeting since the last AGM. Members in either category are eligible for re-election.*

3. *There shall be at least 3 elected members of each Branch or Region 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 committee officers (Chairman (not Region), Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer (not Region)), shall be elected by the committee at the meeting following the AGM.*

Annual General Meetings – Further details

South West Region AGM

The South West Region AGM will be hosted by The South Wales Branch this year and will be based at the Fourteen Locks Canal Visitor Centre, adjacent to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Saturday 14 April 2012

12 noon AGM

1 pm **Buffet Lunch.** This is expected to cost about £7. We will need to know if you would like the buffet but you do not need to pay until the day.

2 pm Guided walk down the locks.

7pm Dinner is arranged for the evening at the Best Western Parkway Hotel. The cost is £25 and must be paid in advance on booking. It will be a three course meal with a choice of 2 starters, a carvery with a selection of joints and vegetables, a selection of desserts and coffee.

Sunday 15 April

A walk along the canal looking at the work going on is arranged for Sunday morning but more details later. We may arrange something more or different.

All the events are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Friends and supporters are all welcome.

For those wishing to stay overnight accommodation we suggest either the Best Western where we are having the dinner or the Newport Etap a couple of miles down the road. Please make your own arrangements for your stay.

Etap Hotel 164 Malpas Road Newport NP20 5PP 01633 859058 Room only from £29 - Adjacent to M4 Junction 26 but all rooms are triple glazed so there is no traffic noise.

Best Western Parkway Hotel Cwmbran Drive Newport NP44 3UW 01633 871199 Double rooms from £80 B and B

Name:-

Buffet Lunch No. required_____

Dinner @£25 per head - No required_____

Please make cheques payable to South Wales Branch IWA.

Return this to - Margaret Gwalter, Westlyn, Llanmorlais, Swansea SA4 3TJ

Annual General Meetings – Further details

Avon & Wilts Branch:

Avon & Wilts Branch AGM 7.30 pm Thursday 29th March
2012.

To be followed by skittles and a buffet.

To book for the buffet (£5) or for further details contact Geoff
Harman, Tel: 0117 9623812, harman@lampeter99.plus.com
11 Lampeter Road
Bristol BS9 3QQ

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch:

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch AGM 7:30 pm 1st
March 2012

To be followed by a talk by Jack Hedley, Chairman of South Wales
and Severn Waterways Partnership who will be speaking on the
new arrangements for the waterways and answering any questions.

South Wales Branch:

South Wales Branch AGM 7 pm Thursday 15th March 2012 in
the Beulah United Reform Church Hall, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

To be followed at 7:45 by a talk given by Richard Domett on
Restoration on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

Annual General Meetings – Further details

IWA (West Country Branch) AGM Saturday 24th March 2012 Booking Form

I/We (Name/s).....

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel. No..... Mobile.....

E-mail address.....

How many?

I/We will be attending the AGM on 24/3/12

I/We would like to join the morning visit to Nynehead

I/We would like lunch at The Martlet Inn
(Please place your food order on the reverse of this page)

I/We are not having lunch at the Martlet but would
like Coffee/Tea before the meeting.
(Please order on the reverse of this page)

Annual General Meetings - Further details

Food Order

How many?

Home-made Soup of the Day £3.95
With Crusty Roll

Sandwiches (choice of brown or white bread - Please specify)

B/W

Ham	£5.50	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Beef	£5.50	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tuna	£5.50	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Prawn	£5.50	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Cheese	£4.50	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Hot Ciabata - filled with:- £6.50

Mushroom with Garlic and Herb Cheese	<input type="text"/>
Smoked Bacon and Mozzarella	<input type="text"/>
Tuna mayo with red onion and Brie	<input type="text"/>
Ham, red onion, tomato and mustard	<input type="text"/>

Hot meals

Steak and Mushroom Pie	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Cumberland Sausage and Mash	£8.95	<input type="text"/>
Lambs Liver and Bacon	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Steak Sandwich	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Fish and Chips	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Ham Egg and Chips	£8.50	<input type="text"/>
Martlets Brunch	£8.50	<input type="text"/>

Vegetarian

Mushroom Stroganoff	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Vegetable Bake	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Tagliatelle Verdi in tomato and herb pesto	£9.95	<input type="text"/>
Thai Noodles with vegetables	£9.95	<input type="text"/>

Deserts

Selection on the day £5.00

Tea Coffee

After lunch Coffee/Tea £2.00

TOTAL £

Annual General Meetings – Further details

Lunch Menu - 24th March 2012

Home-made Soup of the Day £3.95
With Crusty Roll

Sandwiches

Ham £5.50
Beef £5.50
Tuna £5.50
Prawn £5.50
Cheese £4.50

Hot Ciabata - filled with:- £6.50
Mushroom with Garlic and Herb Cheese
Smoked Bacon and Mozzarella
Tuna mayo with red onion and Brie
Ham, red onion, tomato and mustard

Hot meals

Steak and Mushroom Pie £9.95
Cumberland Sausage and Mash £8.95
Lamb's Liver and Bacon £9.95
Steak Sandwich £9.95
Fish and Chips £9.95
Ham Egg and Chips £8.50
Martlets Brunch £8.50

Vegetarian

Mushroom Stroganoff £9.95
Vegetable Bake £9.95
Tagliatelle Verdi in tomato and herb pesto £9.95
Thai Noodles with vegetables £9.95

Deserts £5.00

Selection on the day

Coffees and Teas £2.00

Please return the booking form together with your payment to:

Mrs A J Pilgrim, 'Kestrels', Frog Lane, Holcombe Rogus, Wellington TA21 0PG

Tel: 01823 672992

Booking forms should be returned no later than 16th March 2012

Cheques should be made payable to "IWA West Country Branch"

Avon & Wilts Branch Report

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly-appointed Chairman of the Branch, since a committee meeting in November. I was already serving on the Branch committee, as I have done for the past few years, as the Honorary Secretary, but as Branch members will know, we have been without a Chairman/person for at least three to four years. Geoff Harman, who arranges our Branch events programme, also holds the position of Vice-Chairman, but he was unwilling to step back up into the Chair, as he had done a long stint some years ago. Our committee meetings took place on the basis that the members attending each meeting as it took place elected one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting. The burden did indeed fall on Geoff Harman quite a few times, but without the implied responsibility at any time to chair succeeding meetings.

Having been the chosen Chairman of a committee meeting in September, I was then invited, at the outset of the following committee meeting, in November, to consider becoming the Branch chairman on a long-term basis. Having thought about it for at least ten or fifteen seconds, I agreed to accept the invitation, so here I am writing the Branch's piece for Sou'Wester. I am doubling up as the Branch Hon. Secretary, at least until the next Branch AGM.

In my younger days, I was keen to contribute to the restoration work of IWA and WRG and also, in this area, the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust. Now I am old and gray, my physical energy in all probability doesn't equal my aspirations for recovered waterways, so I'm not usually found on Canal Camps, summer or winter.

I have spent much of my involvement with the IWA, at local, regional and national levels, at desk or table, seeking to cope with varying copious quantities of paperwork, and if I have been able to make a contribution in some way through this, it is better than not having been involved at all.

My wife and I do not possess a boat, and we have only briefly taken a boating holiday some years ago: that's not to say we never will again in the future – indeed with retirement comes perhaps better opportunities, if we so choose.

We are always happy when walking along a canal towpath somewhere, locally or further afield. We did indeed start, many years back, to walk the length of the K & A, in stages, but with a change of job soon after the Millennium, suitable opportunities became less and less, and creaky knees and ankles were taking their toll, so that project was shelved, but we have strolled elsewhere on the spur of the moment, when opportunities have presented themselves. By the time you will be reading this, the majority of the Branch's social meetings' programme will have been completed, so I can only encourage as many as possible of you to turn up to the Branch AGM on Thursday March 29th,

This is being held at the Friends Life Sports Club, off Cribbs Causeway, We can turn our hands to skittles once the business of the evening is completed. The formal announcement occurs elsewhere in this issue of “Sou’Wester”.

There is also the South West Region AGM ahead, on Saturday April 14th, in South Wales, and again the details of the meeting will be on another page. Geoff Harman notifies me that there could be one more social evening, with a speaker, during April. Details will follow.

Costs, and expenditure, being a great concern for us all these days, it is not therefore surprising that our Association is regularly taking a long hard look at all expenditure, and that includes publishing magazines such as this one. We are working as much as possible to reaching the point where “Sou’Wester” can be read electronically on a computer screen as easily as on paper, so do keep an eye on the IWA website, www.waterways.org where you will also find details of this branch’s events and activities, as well as national matters.

I must also take this opportunity to thank those of you who responded to the national call, which we, as a Branch, strongly backed, to urge the MPs of the eighteen constituencies in our Branch area to urge DEFRA to ensure that the new Canal and River Trust is fully adequately funded when it become the successor body to British Waterways this year. Your Branch committee and officers were strongly encouraged to ensure that as many MPs as possible were contacted by their constituents to put forward the concerns that IWA has identified, and hence, between Geoff Harman and myself, we sent an e-mail message to all members whose e-mail addresses are known by the Association’s Head Office.

If you in fact have an e-mail address, but did not hear either from Head Office directly, or from Geoff or myself, it is either because the e-mail address known to the Membership desk in Chesham is incorrect, or because Membership has never been made aware of your e-mail address. We know that about 54% of our Branch membership has e-mail connections, but are you in the other 46%? Please do let Tracy Higgin (Tracy.Higgin@waterways.org.uk) know if you have an e-mail address to add to the record. I can assure you that it will only be used on strictly-controlled Association business, whether from Head Office, or by this Branch, and only then when seriously appropriate.

There is an urgent need for fresh blood on the Branch committee – not just a replacement Branch Secretary, as I cannot in reality be both Chair and Secretary, but to bring fresh voices and thoughts and actions to committee discussions and plans. By all means contact me directly, by mail, telephone or e-mail, for a discussion before the Branch AGM, or arrange to attend that meeting, and I will gladly welcome your nomination for election to the committee.

John Gornall, Bristol, Branch Chairman

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch Report

Over the Christmas period we held two events, a social get together and a carol service. Although the attendance was not as good as we had hoped everybody had a good time and the food at the social was wonderful, thank you Susan.

We have three more meetings this year:

2nd February

How green is Mr. Brindley's stinking ditch – Dick Skeet. Dick always gives a very good and unusual talk.

1st March

AGM in the Gloucester Yacht Club. The AGM should not last too long and after we have Jack Hedley, Chair of South Wales and Severn Waterways. Partnership who will be speaking on the new arrangements for the waterways and answering any questions.

5th April

Aickman and Rolt - Stuart Burrows (curator of Bath at Work Museum), Stuart will be talking about the start of IWA and the lives of its main founders.

Meetings are held at Gloucester Yacht Club in Gloucester Dock at 7.30pm and everybody is welcome. There is free parking at the Council car park North Warehouse.

We are planning an event along with others to celebrate 200 years of Gloucester Lock in September as well as attending the IWA National Trail Boat Rally in Stroud on the Jubilee Weekend in June.

So a final plea. Do come to our events, the meetings at the Yacht Club are free and we are a friendly bunch.

As a branch we pride ourselves on supporting the local canal restoration groups. In the last 12 months we have given £500 to the Inglesham Lock appeal for the Cotswold Canal Trust and £250 to the Land Fund of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust.

Roger Holmes, Branch Chairman

South Wales Branch Chairman's Report

Various events have been arranged to celebrate the Bicentenary of joining together the Monmouthshire Canal and the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal in February 1812.

The Swansea Community Boat has started running trips up the river Tawe.

The Swansea Canal Society has an IWA grant towards updating the costing to restore the canal through the old Council Yard.

Islwyn Canal Association are having a boat built to run trips on their section of the Crumlin Arm

The Pontypridd Canal Conservation Group are making good progress on clearing the locks. They are getting a lot of media attention from the local press and radio...

We have included a table of events for the coming year. It is by no means comprehensive and as it is so early in the year some dates are provisional and it is a bit short on detail. If you have an event you wish to include please let us know. This table will be on our page of the IWA website and will be regularly updated
Peter please could the table go after this.

South Wales Branch AGM The South Wales Branch AGM will take place on Thursday 15th March at 7pm in the Beulah United Reform Church Hall, Rhiwbina, Cardiff. It will be followed at 7.45 by a talk given by Richard Dommett on Restoration on the Mon & Brecon Canal.

South West Region AGM The South West Region AGM will be held at the Fourteen Locks Centre, at 12 noon, on Saturday 14 April followed by lunch and a Guided walk down the locks. The Buffet Lunch is expected to cost about £7. We will need to know if you would like the buffet but you do not need to pay until the day.

Dinner is arranged for the evening at the Best Western Parkway Hotel for 7pm. It will be a three course meal with a choice of 2 starters, a carvery with a selection of joints and vegetables, a selection of desserts and coffee.

A walk along the canal looking at the work going on is arranged for Sunday morning but more details later. We may arrange something more or different.

All the events are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Friends and supporters are all welcome.

Margaret Gwalter, Branch Chairman

Westcountry Branch Chairman's Report

We are heading towards the start of another IWA year which will start at the Branch AGM on 24th March. You'll find details elsewhere in Sou'Wester. It's customary to dangle a carrot to attract you to the event and this year we've got a good tasty one.

Denis Dodd has kindly agreed to show us around his privately-owned Nynehead Lift site on the Somerset section of the Grand Western Canal. You may have visited there before but the interpretation of his ongoing discoveries will give us something new.

Lunch at the nearby Martlet Inn will follow the field visit and precede the AGM which is scheduled to start at 2.00pm sharp.

The past year has progressed much as usual. The various waterways groups around our Branch have been working steadily on their projects. I am not aware of any much change in our local waterways. You may, of course, disagree with that remark because of this or that achievement in your sphere of activity; one that you have not proudly told the Branch Committee about. How about sending in some notes about your work after your local meetings or work-parties have taken place? Your experiences can be shared to help others who may be facing similar challenges.

I am unsure about the future of the Branch. The insularity that results from such a geographically large Branch is an obstacle that can't be overcome without members communicating with their Committee. The Branch Committee can't communicate effectively with you all. To date monies raised by Branch members have been for projects and not administration. I have failed to obtain the re-statement of the membership capitation fee levy on your subscriptions that used to be sent to Branches to help finance their operation. The result is a virtually mute Committee acting for a virtually mute membership!

Head Office is pleading the poverties of late so, from a realistic viewpoint, there seems little point in pursuing this, particularly since the withdrawal of the levy is now so long ago that there are not many of us around who can remember it! Regrettably, in my view, the forthcoming Committee may have to consider encouraging fund-raising activities to fund proper communication with members and with other organisations. These efforts will divert your energies from your real work.

I will not be serving on the Committee during 2012-2013. I am guilty of accepting the insularity mentioned above and will be directing my efforts at my local waterways' developments rather than at what has seemed the rather fruitless participation in your Committee's business. Unfortunately my resignation will threaten the viability of your Committee. If you feel that it is worthwhile then you must come forward to prove me wrong. If you decide to prevent its demise contact me for a Nomination form, fill it in and get it Seconded well before the AGM.

Adam Pilgrim, Branch Chairman

Hedge laying at Bathampton

The saying that you learn something new every day is one that I certainly subscribe to. Another is that when volunteering on the waterways every time you start something it unearths other jobs that need tackling. These two came together at the end of last year at Bathampton.



In October last I was involved, wearing my K&A Trust hat, with an “Away Day” involving a party of 12 people from Lloyds Bank HQ from Bristol along with Derrick Hunt from the Trust’s Bradford on Avon Branch when we had a good day cutting back vegetation and generally tidying up the towpath either side of the George at Bathampton. Our work on that day was appreciated not only by passers by but by the local residents. The latter said what a pity it was that we were not able to tackle laying the hedge along the section beyond the row of cottages and opposite the “Harbutts” development. It had obviously had nothing done to it since being planted some 12 years ago and was now far too high and “straggly”.

On our review of the day’s work after our friends from the Bank had set off home resulted in Derrick and me looking on this as a bit of a challenge. Hedge laying was something that I had always admired but was not a skill that I had. Both of us wanted to know more and Derrick thought that he could come up with someone who would be willing to teach us how to do it.



This resulted early last December, after having duly obtained environmental clearance from BW, in 6 of us assembling at Bathampton to start work under the expert guidance of Brian Chislett. Our numbers were made up by Derrick bringing along 3 of his Bradford on Avon work party who like us were anxious to learn this new skill.

Largely thanks to the skill and patience of Brian Chislett we had a most enjoyable day and managed to lay over 30m of hedge. The local residents were pleased with what we had done and asked us when we planned to carry on. There remains a lot still to do so anyone interested please get in touch.

Finally the photograph shows what we achieved. Perhaps not yet ready for the Bath and West Show but although I say it myself, not bad for a crowd of beginners. Again a big thank you to Brian.



John Webb – Avon and Wilts Branch.

Dundas Wharf, Bath – Upgrade Project.

I know that I am biased, living only a couple of miles away and mooring our boat there for some seven years, but I happen to think that it is one of the most wonderful spots on our Kennet and Avon Canal. Historic junction with the Somersetshire Coal Canal, picturesque countryside and the magnificent Dundas Aqueduct. No wonder it is becoming an increasingly popular spot for visitors.

For sometime we have accepted that locations which attract a lot of visitors, not to mention visiting boats who use the water point, sanitary and refuse facilities, do need on-going maintenance and Dundas Wharf is no exception. The Claverton “Team” who have been working away on the Iron Wharf-side Crane and the Toll Office came up with a scheme to undertake certain improvements. This “Upgrade Scheme” was designed to be such that it could be undertaken with volunteer labour leaving only the supply of materials to be funded by British Waterways. When we met with BW last July they were in broad agreement with our scheme and mentioned that the Wharf had been conditionally granted “Red Wheel” status by the Transport Trust, but on the condition that certain improvement works be undertaken. What we had proposed met this criteria, albeit leaving BW, or should I start getting into the habit of saying C&RT, to sort out the signage.

Another facet of the project is that the Toll Office, when completed, will be used not only as an Interpretation Centre but also possibly to sell tickets and act as a base for a possible water taxi service to take visitors to and from Claverton Pumping Station. This is at present a tentative proposal being considered. Having said that it would be wonderful if it could be inaugurated as part of the celebrations next year to commemorate the 200 years since the pumping station became operational.

At the time of my writing this article the formal go ahead from BW is still awaited. It, possibly along with other like other matters, is taking a back seat whilst they concentrate on the transfer to Trust status which is now only a matter of weeks away. Notwithstanding this we have decided to push ahead with some of the works whilst awaiting the formal go ahead for the remainder.

Our efforts started last October when an “Away Day” party of six from the Bath Office, which happens to overlook the canal above the Bath Top Lock, of G L Hearn and Partners, Planning Consultants, together with Mike Rogers and myself representing the K&A Canal Trust, had a productive day cutting back the vegetation from the path up to the Horse Bridge and to the masonry wall supporting the bank along the back of the wharf. Everyone enjoyed themselves and a review at the end of the day confirmed that what we had done really had improved things. Again it was nice to receive appreciative comments from passers- by.

As is common with this sort of project it is not until you start that you uncover and identify further works that need doing. This was certainly true of our October work party day. We always knew that the wall was in need of repointing and some repairs although the extent of the latter increased in scope when the ivy and vegetation was removed. Similarly we established that neglect over the past 20 years had resulted in soil and leaf mould requiring to be moved.

This latter operation was tackled by a further work party in January when eight of us set to in scraping the soil and leaf mould from the stoned surface beneath and barrowing it to a suitable location alongside the Sustrans cycle path. This time our work party consisted of Derrick Hunt and two members of his K&A Trust Bradford on Avon Branch work party, Dave Cox, a SCCS work party volunteer and four of us from Claverton including myself. This really underlines the scope for co-operation between groups. Again we were pleased to receive compliments from passers- by and at the end of the day we really had made a difference.

Our next task will be to repair and repoint the wall. BW have provided the Hydraulic Lime and sand for this and we plan to bring the mixer back from Burbage to assist. After this it will be pushing on with hard landscape repairs including works around the base of the historic wharf side crane. At this stage I must again say thank you to the IWA Avon and Wilts Branch for making available moneys to go towards materials needed for this project. We will soon be needing to draw on this.

Finally I am anxious to increase the strength of our work party at this location so any IWA member who would like to get involved will be made very welcome. I can be contacted by telephone on 01225 836133 or by email at jes.webb@btinternet.com I look forward to hearing from you.

John Webb – Avon and Wilts Branch.

Thank you British Waterways.

Many, including on occasions myself, are critical of BW who in fairness to them have a very difficult job to do, particularly when it comes to co-ordinating the activities of volunteers. I therefore feel it only fair that I should record my appreciation for a recent initiative.

On the Western end of the Kennet and Avon Canal BW have appointed a Volunteer Co-ordinator, Rob Labus. At the beginning of last December I received an invitation from him to join in a short lunch time cruise from Bradford to Avoncliff and back on board the Trust's Trip Boat, The Barbara McLellan, this to say thank you for the efforts made over the last year. We were provided with a wonderful cold buffet and drinks which really was much appreciated by all present.

Whilst the boat was being expertly worked through Bradford Lock some of the Bradford volunteers were busy painting the lock edges and when cruising below the lock by the Waterworks Swing Bridge more volunteers were on the work boat dealing with offside vegetation clearance. This really underlined the fact that volunteering is really all about the large numbers of lovely people who actually get out and do something. Without them it simply would not happen. Whilst Derrick and I were obviously there representing them it was they who really should be the ones that were thanked.

This brings me onto the fact that in talking to various people it became obvious that whilst volunteering used to be the prerogative of the IWA and the Canal Societies this is perhaps no longer the case. This is perhaps demonstrated by Rob Labus's own Bath Lock Flight working parties which take place once every month. These cater for people who simply are not interested in joining societies or sitting on committees but simply wish to have the opportunity of getting their hands dirty and doing something practical for the benefit of the community and the environment. There is obviously a place for us all as there is a tremendous amount that requires to be tackled.

Finally Rob again many thanks for organising this very nice event. It is nice to be not only appreciated but also thanked. I know we all look forward to working with you over the coming year.

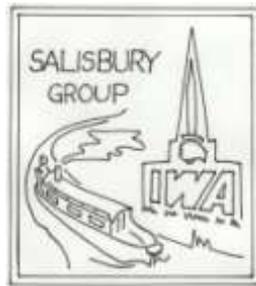
John Webb – Avon and Wilts Branch.

INLAND WATERWAYS ASS.

AVON & WILTS BRANCH

SALISBURY GROUP

REPORT FROM THE SALISBURY GROUP -
JANUARY 2012



At the November meeting, Stuart Fisher gave us a talk entitled “The Secret Canals of Britain”. We were all intrigued by the vast number of waterways that he had covered in his canoe, those that narrow boats cannot reach. Stuart had ventured far afield as far as the Forth & Clyde and the Crinan and Caledonian Canals in Scotland right down to the Grand Western Canal and the Bridgewater & Taunton Canal in the South West.

Some of Stuart’s pictures went back in time as a few of the waterways that he had ventured on are now linked to the main system and once more opened to narrow boats, such as the Lancaster Canal. It was interesting to see waterways that in their time were industrial, such as the canals around Runcorn, Warrington and St Helens, as well as the picturesque ones.

Stuart had obviously traveled far afield with his canoe to reach those waterways that are less known to narrow boaters. All this experience has led to the publication of his book “The Canals of Britain”.

In December we entered a team into the annual waterways quiz hosted by Southampton Canal Society. It was a close run battle between the four teams but it was Southampton Canal Society who came out on top.

Our 21st year was rounded off with the Christmas dinner at The Green Dragon; twenty-two of us enjoyed the excellent food served up by Jeff and his staff in the warm and friendly environment.

PROGRAMME 2012

Thurs 19th Jan “Canals of the North West”. This is an illustrated talk about the canals and rivers centred around Acton Bridge including Wigan to the North and Stoke on Trent to the South. This talk is given by **Tony Fry** and is an account of the eight years when he and his family cruised in this area.

Thurs 16th Feb “The Portsmouth and Arundel Navigation (Ford to Hunston).” **Adge Roberts** will give a talk about the history of this unsuccessful canal and show slides of the visible remains. He will also highlight the recent archaeological finds and conservation work that have been carried out along this nine mile stretch of canal. For those interested a guided walk along this canal may be possible later in the year.

Thurs 15th March Robert Wright is a member of The Waterways Craft Guild and will be giving a talk on “**Traditional Canal Painting**”. This will include an explanation of the origins of Roses & Castles decoration, biographies of four of the most famous narrowboat painters from the days of canal carrying & of some of the well known recent painters, and he will be describing how narrowboat decoration changed after the Second World War. Robert will explain the origins, objectives and workings of the Waterways Craft Guild and show a short video and explanation of the painting of a canal rose.

Thurs 17th May “European Locks, Lifts & Structures”. Inland navigations are a means of transporting goods from A to B, but what happens when hills get in the way? Over the centuries man has devised many solutions to this problem. In this talk **Ron and Myra Glover** will show slides and explain the function of many of these structures found on the European waterways.

Thurs 19th July Boules & BBQ at the Green Dragon. 7.00pm

Thurs 18th Oct “The Somerset Coal Canal”. Revelations, excavations and restoration of the Somersetshire Coal Canal. **Derrick Hunt** talks about the exciting updates on all the activities that have been taking place over the last five years. Plenty going on to report!

Thurs 15th Nov “Narrow Boating on Tidal Waters”. **Nick Grundy** will be giving an account of his travels in his 70-foot narrow boat “Beatty” cruising some of the great tidal rivers of the waterways system. This includes the Severn Estuary, the Trent and Yorkshire Ouse, the Thames through London and the Mersey Estuary.

Thurs 6th Dec Waterways quiz at Chilworth Village Hall organised by Southampton Canal Society.

Thurs 13th Dec Christmas dinner at The Green Dragon Alderbury.

Further information can be obtained from:

Ron & Myra Glover. 01722 710322 glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Jon Van de Geer 01722 412841

Meetings commence at 7.30pm and are held at: **The Green Dragon,
Old Road,
Alderbury,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP5 3AR**

Events in South Wales

Waterway or Society	Date and Time	Event and Location
Swansea Canal Society	Sat. 18 th August From 9:30 a.m.	Ponty Paddle on the Swansea Canal (<i>provisional date</i>).
Mon. and Brec.	Fri. 10 th February 12 noon	'Ringing Church Bells' at 12 noon - Pontymoile Basin & Churches along the canal from Brecon to Cwmcarn
Mon. and Brec.	Fri. 10 th February Various times	Church events linked to 'Ringing The Bells' along the canal from Brecon to Cwmcarn
Mon. and Brec.	Wed. 29 th February	Canal Talk - Llangatock/Crickhowell as part of the Crickhowell Walking Festival
Mon. and Brec.	Thur. 1 st March	Canal Walk - Llangatock/Crickhowell as part of the Crickhowell Walking Festival
Mon. and Brec.	Mon. 12 th March to Fri. 16 th April	Canal Exhibition at Theatr Brycheiniog Gallery - 'Reflections and Perceptions' by Maguel Aliksander
WA South Wales Branch	Thu. 15 th March 7:30 p.m.	Branch Annual General Meeting at Rhiwbina United Reform Church Hall, Beulah Road, Rhiwbina, Cardiff CF14 6LT
Swansea Canal Society	Sun. 25 th March All day	Clean-up at Clydach
Mon. and Brec.	Sat. 31 st March Sun. 1 st April	'Beacons to the Sea' - Beer Launch - Brecon
IWA South West Region	Sat. 14 th April 12:30 p.m.	Region Annual General Meeting at Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Cwm Lane, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9GN
Mon. and Brec.	Sat. 28 th April	Waterways Festival Day - Pontymoile Basin
Mon. and Brec.	Sat. 5 th May Sun. 6 th May	Five Locks Rally
Mon. and Brec.	Mon. 21 st May to Fri. 25 th May	Brecon Primary Schools Activity Week - Brecon Museum & Theatr Brycheiniog.
Mon. and Brec.	Tue. 29 th May to Thu. 31 st May	Primary Schools Activity Days - Goytre Wharf
Swansea Canal Society	June	WRG Cleaning up lock chambers
Mon. and Brec.	Mon. 4 th June	Talybont & Llangynidr Canal and Jubilee Event
Swansea Canal Society	July	Balsam Bash and Tree Planting
Swansea Canal Society	Sat. 18 th August From 9:30 a.m.	Ponty Paddle on the Swansea Canal (<i>provisional date</i>)

Editorial

A happy new year to all our readers, may 2012 bring you good health and happiness.

This issue is full of Region and Branch AGM's, hopefully you will pop down to your local branch or nearest venue (you are welcome to attend any of them) to see what the various committees have been up to in your name. You may also like to take in a lunch or canal walk and see what the volunteers have been up to, or even get involved with the various activities, I am sure you will be very welcome.

No issue of Sou'Wester would be complete without an article from John Webb and in this issue we have three informative and interesting items; the first one shows that he can not only lay bricks (Burbage Crane Base), He can also lay hedges, is there no end to this man's talent?

A note for your diaries - I am planning to get Sou'Wester issue out in May so contributions by 30 April, please. Finally, I wish you well in your pursuits (hopefully waterways based) during 2012

Peter Kelly

Ron Oakley Replacement Memorial Plaque

"Sou' Wester has reported before that the memorial plaque to our past president Ron Oakley at Bridgwater Dock had been stolen are now pleased to report that a replacement is now in place and ready for its unveiling ceremony. This will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 11th February 2012, and all members and friends are invited. The site is at the junction of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal and the River Parrett, near Northgate, Bridgwater, Somerset.

The South West Region of IWA and representatives of the Inland Waterways International (which Ron founded) will attend the ceremony. There is a handy pub adjacent to the site if anyone wishes to partake in lunch on completion.

For further information contact Geoff on 0117 9623812 or harman@lampeter99.plus.com

AGM's

12.00 noon, Saturday 14 April 2012, Fourteen Locks

South West Region:
Canal Visitor Centre,

Avon & Wilts Branch:

7.30 pm Thursday 29th March 2012.
At the Friends Life Sports and Social Club, Bristol

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch:

7:30 pm 1 March 2012, Gloucester Yacht Club

South Wales Branch:

7 pm Thursday 15th March in the Beulah United

West Country Branch:
Langford Budville..

2.00 p.m., Saturday 24 March 2012, Marllet Inn,