

Mile Post



The Magazine of the
West Riding Branch

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

Cover Photograph

Frank and Barbara Rigby are presented with an engraved crystal bowl by David Jessup, in recognition of their service to the I.W.A..

Chairman's Comments

As you will be aware West Riding Branch has the responsibility for the waterways in the West and North Yorkshire areas. This is a large area to cover, having the bulk of navigable waterways in the North East Region of the IWA.

In recent months there has been a great deal of discussion at branch and region level on how to best serve the waterways and members in our area.

There are now three branches in the NE region i.e. West Riding, Northumbria, and East Yorkshire. The proposal from the region committee and supported by West Riding branch committee is to work towards the development of a new branch centred on the Ouse corridor through to Ripon.

The membership list indicates 80+ members living in this corridor, easily enough to support a new branch. How about it, do we have enough enthusiasm from members in this area to bring about change? Any comments, volunteers for chairman, secretary, committee etc. to Secretary Ian Moore. It would be useful to have some feedback by the end of May.

The IWA boat 'JUBILEE' is entering our waters on about 10th July 04 and traveling from Skipton to Ripon returning via York, Selby and eventually onto the Trent to be at Burton on Trent for the National rally. Barry Robbins, East Yorkshire Branch Chairman, Tel. 01482 658254 is organising this event. He would like anyone who can assist him in helping to crew the boat, provide escort or man it when open to the public, to contact him for details.

Mooring locations and dates will be circulated in the local media. It is hoped that when the boat is in the Ouse corridor members will come along and discuss boundary changes with us.

David Jessup

Editorial Comment.

The well publicised event for the IWA's National Clean -up Weekend, of painting mileposts on the Leeds Liverpool Canal, on 27th and 28th of March, went very well and we managed to paint all the mileposts from Bingley Five Rise to Leeds.

However it was disappointing to find that the only members to turn up were your branch committee. It would have been nice if other branch members had taken up the challenge and helped out at this event.

There are other events taking place throughout the year and your support would be greatly appreciated. There is a list of these forthcoming events on page 17. Help is also needed for the visit of 'Jubilee' whose itinerary also features on page 9.

We are in urgent need of branch members putting themselves forward to help the committee. As yet we have no social secretary to organise next years social calendar. If you can help in any way contact any committee member.



Milepost painting on the Leeds Liverpool during Clean-up weekend.

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION
WEST RIDING BRANCH AGM

Minutes of the 2004 AGM held at Centenary House, Leeds, Friday 12 March at 8pm.

1. APOLOGIES: None.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2003 AGM: Accepted

3. MATTERS ARISING: None

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

(Read out in David Jessup's absence)

May I apologise for not being at the AGM this year. Julia and myself will be in Spain on a family holiday planned in February 2003.

I now have the chance to correct mistakes I made during the year and thank Liz Pinder for her help on our stand at Beale Park and to thank Tricia Laing for taking on joint duties as publisher of 'The Milepost'

I would like to thank all the members of our committee for the support they have given in the past year.

We took part in Clean up 2003 in April by painting mileposts between Bingley and Gargrave .

A walk by the Calder navigation in June.

The IWA National in August.

The sales team had a very busy summer which they reported in 'The Milepost' in December.

Most of our income is generated by sales and we found that at the end of 2003 we had a healthy bank balance. We were able to allocate £1000 to the Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canals Trust Restoration/Feasibility Appeal.

Through Autumn and Winter we have enjoyed a varied and interesting social programme and at the last meeting it was a pleasure for me to present a commemorative bowl to Frank and Barbara Rigby in recognition of the work they have done for the IWA and the branch over many years.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The branch, as always, has had another busy year.

Elliott and Jennifer Mosley have taken the sales stand to 4 local events and many of the committee, as well as some of our members, have helped out by doing a stint on the stand. The stand is going along to a similar number of events this year, so if you can lend a hand, even for an hour, selling or just talking to the general public have a word with Jennifer or Elliott. Or if you see us at an event come over and offer a helping hand.

The branch had a stand down south at the National last year and we will be going to Burton on Trent this year. A lot of the committee put in a lot of work to make it happen, such as preparing displays, transporting to the site, erecting it, dismantling it and bringing it back home. And of course manning it, again with some help from our ordinary members. We need Tombola prizes for this year's National and help on the stand.

Last year we painted mileposts on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal as part of IWA's national clear up week. We're doing the same this year. Just turn up at Dobson Lock, Apperley Bridge on 27th 28th March 10am.

Two of our stalwart committee members, Frank and Barbara Rigby, will be standing down from the committee next year. They have already given up production of 'The Milepost' No one has volunteered to take the job of editor. Fortunately two of our committee members Bob and Tricia Laing have offered to compile the news letter and the rest of the committee will be rallying round to help them. I have said I will try and write regular pieces to let members know what is happening along our waterways, as I attend umpteen meetings and deal with most of the branch correspondence. The problem of course is finding the time to summarise this information.

As yet no one has volunteered to take on Barbara Rigby's essential job of Social Secretary, organising speakers for our social meetings.

You may have noticed a theme emerging. We could really do with some more volunteers. There are lots of jobs people could do without being on the committee. For example monitoring planning applications, compiling a waterways events list for 'The Milepost'

In the final analysis it is your branch and it is up to all of us how active West Riding Branch is. So thanks to all the members of the committee

and all the ordinary members who have done something however small. You have all contributed.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer had prepared a balance sheet giving the year's accounts and outlined it to the floor.

Balance at December 2003 £1852.12

The Treasure has drawn up an inventory of items belonging to the branch.

7 ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS:

Proposed by Laurence Hobson. Seconded by Alistair Furness. Accepted.

8. STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE SIZE:

To be left at 12 for the time being. Currently 11 committee members.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Robert Laing, Tricia Laing, Ian Moore and Elliott Mosley up for re-election. Unanimous.

10. NOTICES

Festival dates: Skipton May 1/2/3. South Pennine Boat Club May 8/9.

Thwaites July 3/4. National August 28/30.

Clean Up. March 27/28 Meet 10 am by Dobson Lock.

Next year's social events.

Concern expressed about rise in BW mooring charges to be followed up at next committee meeting.

Regional Chairman's Report.

Although a life long resident of Teesside, being married to a Yorkshire- woman, and for 35 years most weekends being spent near Ripon, I gained a great affinity with North Yorkshire. Sunday morning trips to or on the Ure Navigation, and down to York were regular activities.

I instigated the formation of a Trust when the fate of Linton Lock was unsure and was on the steering group for the restoration of the top pound of the Ripon Canal. Therefore I have great concern that the Ouse Ure corridor does not get the IWA coverage that it deserves. The problem is simply the size of Yorkshire.

East Yorkshire is vast but the number of navigations manageable. West Yorkshire is big and populous and has many navigations. North Yorkshire is also huge but, like East Yorkshire, has what should be a manageable number of navigations.

North Yorkshire is allocated to West Riding Branch whose officers and the majority of members live in West Yorkshire. They do not have local knowledge, day to day contact or access to local media. We need people who live or cruise the Ouse or Ure to be the eyes and ears of the Association.

Regional Committee, East Yorkshire Branch and West Riding Branch are to launch a 2004 initiative to communicate with local members and the public who have an interest in aspects of the navigation. It will link in with the campaigning visit of IWA's exhibition narrowboat Jubilee this coming summer. As part of a 'Five Great Churches' cruise Jubilee will call and be open at Ripon and York. During each stay a room will be booked where the crews of Jubilee and accompanying boats can meet local people for chat and entertainment. Officers of region and the NE Branches will also be on hand.

The intention is to establish ongoing social ties between members resident in North Yorkshire and those who cruise the Ouse Ure corridor and to raise public interest in the waterways. Even informal conversation can provide important information on the activities of the navigation authority, local authorities and business. It could also be the seed for the future establishment of a North Yorkshire Branch. There have been a number of occasions where a social group has taken on full branch status.

Please join us on Jubilee or during the evenings for chat and entertainment.

By John Reeve - Region Chairman.

Narrowboat 'Jubilee'.

Narrowboat 'Jubilee' is the Inland Waterways Association's mobile information, publicity and campaigning vessel. She was donated to the IWA in 1996, the year of the IWA Golden Jubilee - hence the name. Since then she has traveled all over the canals and rivers of this country spreading the message not only for the IWA but for other waterway groups as well.

In July and August of this year, 'Jubilee' will be visiting the North East Region. Volunteers are needed to assist with 'Jubilee's' passage through our region. If you can spare the time to help with crewing, speaking to the public about the work of the IWA or accompanying 'Jubilee' in your own boat, please get in touch with Barry Robins at 90, Carr Lane, Willerby, Hull. HU10 6JU.

Below are the provisional arrangements for Jubilee's visit.

6 July (Tues)	Take over at Skipton, cruise to Silsden/ Stocksbridge.
7 July	Silsden/Stocksbridge to Rodley.
8 July	Rodley to Lemonroyd.
9 July.	Lemonroyd to Selby (West Haddingham?)
10 July (Sat)	Out at Selby about 2.00pm. Overnight at Naburn.
11to 13 July	Naburn to Ripon.
16 to 18 July	Open at Ripon.
19 to 20 July	Move to York.
20 to 22 July	Open at York (evening of 20th.)
23 July	Leave York in time to enter tidal Ouse at Naburn.
24/25 July	Open at Selby.
26 July	Leave Selby for Keadby.
27 July	Out at Keadby at 2.30pm. Moor at Torksey(?) or Saxilby.
28/29 July	Open at Lincoln (from mid-day on 28th.)
30 July	Lincoln to Boston.
31 /2 Aug	Open at Boston (from evening of 31st)
3 / 4 Aug	Boston to Lincoln.
5 Aug	Lincoln to Torksey.
6 Aug	Out at Torksey approx 11.00am. to Newark (or Keadby.)
8 Aug	Hand 'Jubilee' over for cruising to Burton-on -Trent.

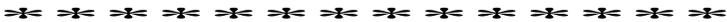
Meet Your Committee.

***A personal profile of -
David Jessup (chairman)***



I am 58 years of age and have been married to Julia for 36 years. We have two married sons and 4 grandchildren. Most of my working life was spent as a police officer in the Leeds and then West Yorkshire Area where I specialised in the investigation of accidents. Retirement came in 1992. I then developed my own motor repair business retiring for good in 1997 and moving to our new home in Silsden.

My interest in the Inland Waterways came by chance when on Boxing Day 1988 we walked with friends from Kirkstall to Leeds along the L&L towpath. This led to a hire holiday the following summer, another the year after and thereafter until 1995 when we bought into shared ownership. However, this was not enough and we purchased 'Prime Time' in 1999 as a sail away shell and have enjoyed the experience of fitting her out. We enjoy extended cruising and our five month trip to Bath last year and return Via the National at Beale Park was a wonderful experience.



'A Warm Welcome!'

The West Riding Branch extends a warm welcome to these members who joined us in December and January.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| December: | Mr Burton and Mrs Gardner | Saltburn |
| | Mr and Mrs McCrea- Hendicott | Selby |
| | Mr Raine and family | Skipton |
| | Mr and Mrs Bate | Ripon |
| | Dr and Mrs March | Leeds |
| January: | Aire Valley Marine | Angus |
| | Mr and Mrs Mills | Brighouse |
| | Mr and Mrs Bannister | Keighley |
| | Mr and Mrs Bailey | York |

NAVIGATION NOTES

Aire & Calder Navigation

BW has investigated, following long-standing representations from boaters at user group meetings, the use of second arch of Stephenson's bridge by pleasure craft. It is now navigable and has been signed so that boaters know there is sufficient depth of water. This will make it easier to avoid freight barges from Whitwood Wharf (the bridge is down stream from the wharf).

Calder & Hebble Navigation

Planning permission has been applied for by Kirklees Council for the Calder Valley Greenway. This covers 55 yards of towpath on the Mirfield Cut and 1040 yards of towpath on the Kirklees Cut. The latter section is intended to be the link into Calderdale. For further information see the Travel section of www.kirklees.gov.uk or contact Tom Ghee, Project Manager, Kirklees Environmental & Transportation Service, Flint Street, Fartown, Huddersfield HD1 6LG. Telephone 01484 225628.

Huddersfield Broad Canal

BW is intending to fit spring loaded handcuff type locks (as per Huddersfield Narrow) to some of the Huddersfield Broad locks to combat vandalism.

Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Kirklees Council is investigating options for a Colne Valley Greenway between Huddersfield and Marsden, which could use parts of Huddersfield Narrow Canal towpath. For the latest information see the Travel section of www.kirklees.gov.uk or contact Lynnette Evans, Kirklees Cycling Officer, Kirklees Environmental & Transportation Service, Flint Street, Fartown, Huddersfield HD1 6LG. Telephone 01484 225611.

Leeds & Liverpool Canal

The towpath through Bingley has reopened following a closure to allow for construction works for the Bingley bypass. Work has started on the Bingley to Silsden section of the towpath to allow cyclists to use it. There is a website www.airevalleytowpath.org.uk or contact BW for further information.

Rochdale Canal

Since last summer, eleven pairs of tail gates and one pair of head gates have been replaced. And additional 15 pairs of lock gates have been strengthened.

On the 5th of February, following a week of heavy rain, part of the offside bank between Locks 13 and 14, near Callis Mill, slid into the canal. According to BW over 1000 tonnes of earth moved in the landslip. To avoid further slippage BW have dug down to the bedrock to build a concrete retaining wall, which will be topped by rock filled gabions at water level. The canal is expected to reopen at Easter.

2004 marks the bi-centenary of the original opening of the Rochdale Canal.

General

NABO have started a set of waterway reporting notice boards covering the country on their web site www.nabo.org.uk and click on the lock gates). The intention is that anyone can post or read notes about the state of a particular waterway.

By Ian Moore.

Surprise, surprise!!

At the February social meeting, Chairman David surprised Barbara and Frank Rigby by making a presentation to them for their services over the past eleven years. This took the form of an engraved cut-glass dish suitably inscribed with the IWA logo and their names, together with generous words recognising their dedication to the cause.

Barbara and Frank would like to thank their friends in the West Riding Branch for this totally unexpected but much appreciated gift. Although they are now preparing to take a back seat, they will always support the efforts of the West Riding Branch specifically and H-Q generally to achieve the aims of the Association.

The West Riding Branch is in good hands, doing much work behind the scenes and achieving a great deal on behalf of members and those interested in Inland Waterways. However experience has shown that additional help is always appreciated - volunteers are coming forward - but more are needed.

IWA - Press Release.

IWA Grant for Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canals Feasibility Study.

On 26th March The Inland Waterways Association announced a grant of £5,000 to Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canals Trust for its *Canals Restoration Feasibility Study Appeal* on behalf of Barnsley Canals Consortium.

IWA's West Riding Branch has also supported the appeal with a further donation of £1,000 - bringing IWA's total contribution to £6,000.

Bradford Waterways – The Re-opening of Bradford’s Canal

These are interesting and eventful times for Britain’s Inland Waterways Network. Today the waterways are seen in a whole new light and add a focus to an area that cannot be otherwise matched. Many renovation, restoration and re-opening schemes are underway or being planned. The waterways create tourism and leisure, attract investment from retail and commercial ventures and have become a desirable location in which to live.

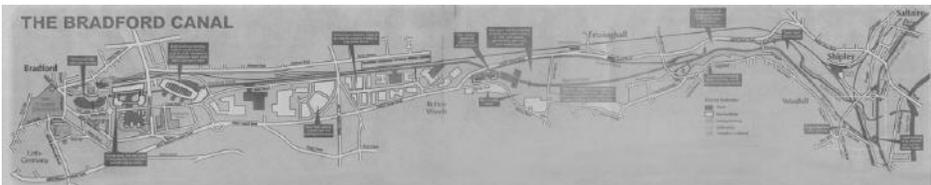
Bradford was the earliest town in West Yorkshire to have a canal built. In 1774 the Bradford Canal opened and stretched to Skipton. It took some of the line of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, which was completed around the turn of the 18th century. The promoters of the canal started to campaign for the Bradford Canal, and the much larger project of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, to be built in 1766. Much of the money, planning, expertise and running of both these two canals was Bradford based and the Head Offices were on Manor Row in Bradford.



Bradford’s Canal had a long, illustrious, and sometime infamous career and, after its eventual demise in July 1922 was filled in piecemeal and forgotten about. The local newspaper headline reporting its closure was “**Good Bye River Stink and Good Riddance!**”

Now a consortium of businesses, both local and national, is bidding to re-open Bradford Canal. Their plan will provide the genesis for the total regeneration of the city and includes the following new developments:

- **£500 Million plus Investment in Bradford**
- **4.5 kilometres of new “State of the Art” Canal**
- **6 Marinas with residential and commercial berths / Moorings**
- **A new “square” at Bradford’s City Centre - Major Water Feature**
- **Superior Architectural Design and Waterside Focus**
- **100,000 m2 of Retail & Leisure Development**
- **New Business Park and Commercial Marina**
- **New Prestigious Hotel and Conference Centre**
- **New Visitor / Exhibition Centre for Canal History**
- **New £9 Million Sports & Leisure Facility at Bolton Woods**
- **Over 1700 new Homes (inc. over 150 homes for Social Housing)**
- **Commissioned Public Art / Sculpture Displays**
- **Restoration of Bradford’s Heritage**
- **Improvement of existing buildings**
- **Increased Tourism and Leisure**
- **Improved railway stations at Forster Sq. and Frizinghall**
- **Waterbus, new walkways and cycle routes**
- **Improved road infrastructure**
- **Massive Job Creation**



Bradford Waterways was set up in June 2003 and has been tirelessly campaigning and lobbying for the re-opening of Bradford’s Canal. Bradford Waterways assessed areas of Bradford, looking at possible corridors for the new canal, that minimised disruption to the built environment. Their designs and drawings of the full line of the new Bradford Canal, along with its associated infrastructure and developments, were published in October 2003. Their plans for the future canal can be viewed on the Internet at their web site

“www.bradfordwaterways.co.uk”. The site also has a history, news and contacts section and is well worth a browse.

Recent publicity in the local “Telegraph & Argus” newspaper has heightened awareness of their plans and has received a very positive response from the public. Their spokesman, Anthony Mann said ,”Without trying to sound too pleased - we feel that all the work that we have done creating, devising, publishing and promoting our plan has gone a long way to getting the Council to back the idea to open a new Bradford Canal”.



In March 2004 Bradford Metropolitan Council recognised the benefits that a new canal in Bradford would bring to the city and have now started the process of putting the idea into their Development Plan for the region (UDP). The Council and Yorkshire Forward sponsored Urban Regeneration Company, known as Bradford Centre Regeneration, is assessing the next steps to be taken and will shortly put out to tender the “Feasibility Study” and subsequent construction and development work.

Bradford Waterways and its consortium partners are currently upgrading and improving their plans and have been short-listed to carry out the feasibility study and subsequent construction and development work. It is hoped that work could be started within the next 18 months and be completed within the next 8 to 10 years.

Written by Anthony Mann for Bradford Waterways.

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Puzzle Page.

How well do you know your canals?

Can you unscramble these words to find sixteen canals?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. bued | 9. isclfmcelaed |
| 2. leerdcfshi | 10. iudaornng n |
| 3. mnmtogyoer | 11. andocl |
| 4. tenrsge | 12. kbneossigta |
| 5. teabrdwgier | 13. oree kaspft |
| 6. vnyocert | 14. allnolleng |
| 7. ofrdox | 15. byhsa |
| 8. drlhaoec | 16. tlaasrcen |

How did you get on?

Answers on page 17..

Sales and Promotion.

More Dates for your Diary.

1. The first event of the season will be the Skipton Water way Festival on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of May.
2. On the 8th May the South Pennine Boat Club is holding a Boat Gathering at the club house and moorings - Wood Lane, Battyeford, Mirfield.
3. Leeds on Water Festival is being held on 3rd and 4th of July at Thwaites Mill on the Aire and Calder Navigation.
4. The August Bank Holiday Weekend 28th, 29th and 30th August is the main event of the year - The IWA National Festival at Burton-on-Trent.

We are attending all these events and hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend and give a helping hand. Contact us by phone or just turn up at the event and you will be made most welcome!

At the National Festival we are having a tombola, so if you have any suitable items for this event contact any committee member and arrangements can be made to collect.

Bits and Pieces.

Just to remind you :-

Please could any articles, for the next issue of Milepost, be with the magazine compilers by 30th August at the latest. We would prefer your articles to be e-mailed to boblaing@blueyonder.co.uk or given to any committee member on computer disk. Handwritten or typed is also more than acceptable so why not put pen to paper and help us fill these pages!

Don't forget your help is needed at forthcoming events, especially for manning the branch stall at the IWA National in August. Hope to see you at Burton-on-Trent!

Tombola prizes are needed for the branch stall at the National. Now's the time to get rid of all those unwanted gifts!

If there is a speaker you would particularly like to hear at a social meeting, or a subject you would like to know more about, why not tell a committee member and we will see what we can do.

Answers to Puzzle Page.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bude | 2. Chesterfield | 3. Montgomery |
| 4. Regents | 5. Bridgewater | 6. Coventry |
| 7. Oxford | 8. Rochdale | 9. Macclesfield |
| 10. Grand Union | 11. Caldon | 12. Basingstoke |
| 13. Peak Forest | 14. Llangollen | 15. Ashby |
| 16. Lancaster | | |

Committee Members 2004 / 2005

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Programme of Events for 2004 - 2005.

All meetings take place at 8.00pm on the second Friday of the month, in the top floor Social Club, Centenary House, North Street, Leeds, LS2 8AY.

- 10th September 04 - London's Lost Route to Basingstoke.
Katie Sayles.
- 8th October 04 - Yorkshire Waterways
Laurence Morgan.
- 12th November 04 - Waterway Artist.
Alan Bamford.
- 10th December 04 - Christmas Social and member's slides.
- 14th January 05 - Two Old Ouses.
Stuart Clark.
- 11th February 05 - British Waterways- The Future.
Derek Cochrane.
- 11th March 05 - AGM and member's slides.
- 8th April 05 - The Falkirk Wheel
Jennifer & Elliott Mosley

All the social meetings organised by the West Riding Branch are open and everyone is invited. Any member of the general public is allowed to attend and members are invited to bring friends.

The Inland Waterways Association campaigns for the Conservation, Use, Maintenance, Restoration and Development of the Inland Waterways, which are part of our heritage, and are there for the benefit of everyone.

For further information please contact 01274-581413