

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.

A busy moment on the West Riding Branch stand at this year's IWA Waterways Festival at Burton on Trent.

Chairman's Comment.

What a difference a year makes (tra la la). This time last year Julia and myself enjoyed brilliant sunshine and soaring temperatures, while working as volunteers at the IWA Festival at Beale Park.

Not so this year at Burton on Trent! The weather, in the run up to the festival was not kind to us - to say the least!

Torrential rain resulted in a very soggy and waterlogged field, which quickly turned to mud.

Rising water levels on the River Trent resulted in its closure of both approaches to the festival site by boat for several days. Thus delaying the arrival of many advance workers.

However due to the dedication and hard work of the IWA volunteer workforce, the festival went ahead.

Our stand was well presented and we were joined by members of The Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canal Society who used an area of our stand to display their information.

I would like to thank all the members of the IWA West Riding Branch who came to the festival and helped on our stand.

Sadly , this will be my last report as chairman. Julia and myself have purchased a property abroad and intend to use it to escape our English winters. I will not therefore be in a position to fulfil the duties of a chairman. I will however continue to be involved in branch activities as often as I am able.

As from September 1st 2004 Chris Pinder will be taking on the chairmanship and I know you will give him as much support as you have given me.

The present committee is now depleted in numbers and urgently requires new members. Currently committee meetings are held in member's homes - usually seven times a year mainly during the winter months. Please support your branch and come forward.

Best wishes from a damp Burton on Trent.

David Jessup

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Treasurer's Report to the End of July 2004.

Having attended two events in May, the branch bank account now stands at a healthy balance of £2,138 - 46. Due to cancellation of Leeds on Water event we are now relying on a successful festival at Burton-on-Trent over the August Bank Holiday weekend weather permitting.

The above balance does however include the promised donation to the Barnsley, Dearne and Dove feasibility study.

Elliott Mosley.
Treasurer.

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Sales and Promotions.

The sales team has not been as busy this year owing to the reorganisation of British Waterways' offices and administration, which has meant the cancellation of several events. The main one affecting us was the Leeds on Water Festival at Thwaites Mill in July.

However the Skipton Waterways Festival went ahead as planned on the bank holiday weekend, 1st, 2nd, 3rd May.

This was another successful event. The weather was rather blustery, in fact we almost lost the gazebo at one point. It was only slightly damaged and the sales team was unscathed.

We had three very busy days with lots of interested people and sales of goods very satisfactory, bringing the turnover £266-23.

The following weekend we spent an enjoyable day at South Pennine Boat Club moorings at Battyeford near Mirfield. This was more of a local event and although we did not raise a lot of money we met many interesting people and old friends we have not seen for several years.

South Pennine Boat Club should be congratulated for putting on such a successful, friendly event which was of interest to young and old.

We certainly enjoyed ourselves and flew the flag for IWA!

By the time you read this report we hope to have had a successful and enjoyable weekend at the National at Burton-on-Trent.

Thank you for your support and help at all these events and your gifts for the tombola at Burton-on-Trent.

Jennifer Mosley.
Sales Officer.

Meet Your Committee

Honorary Secretary Ian Moore



I have served on the committee since 1990 and have been Secretary since 1998.

I grew up in Harrogate and first got interested in waterways while at primary school when we did a project on canals.

The secondary school I attended had its own narrow boat, the Rossett Venturer, which was kept on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Gargrave. Although I only got to go on it once.

I do not own a boat but live within walking distance of Newley Locks on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.

I am also a member of the Steam Boat Association and normally get to at least one of their events each year. And so do my boating on other people's boats.

I suppose I am on the branch committee because I want to be involved and do my bit for the waterways.

Ian Moore

Hon Secretary

IWA West Riding Branch

NAVIGATION NOTES

Barnsley and Dearne & Dove Canals

The contract for the feasibility study was awarded to W.S.Atkins late in August. The Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust are still looking for contributions to the feasibility study fund.

Donations should be made payable to BDDCT (Restoration -Feasibility appeal) and sent to Barnsley Dearne & Dove Canals Trust C/O 39 Hill Street, Elsecar, Barnsley S74 8EN.

Website www.bddct.org.uk

Calder & Hebble Navigation

BW has applied to Wakefield Council to demolish the old coal chute at Fall Ing basin. This is the last coal chute on the Calder & Hebble Navigation and both the West Riding Branch and the Calder Navigation Society are objecting to the application, which went in at the beginning of September.

For anyone else wishing to object, the application number is 04/99/26547/K and the case officer is Kirsty Catlow at City of Wakefield MDC, Planning and Development Control, Newton Bar, Leeds Road, Wakefield WF1 2TX. Telephone 01924 306397. Website www.wakefield.gov.uk

Construction has started on the first phase of Kirklees' Calder Valley Greenway. This is the Ravensthorpe to Dewsbury section that follows the flood relief channel and thus the old route of the navigation before the Thornhill Cut was built, which bypassed Dewsbury. Website www.kirklees.gov.uk

Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Eller House alongside the canal at Kirkstall has been refurbished as offices after standing roofless for 10 years. It is not a listed building but features in the foreground of Turner's painting of Kirkstall Abbey.

Ian Moore.
Secretary.

The IWA National Waterways Festival



Our branch stand.



The Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canals Trust shared a section of our stand to publicise their campaign.

Burton-on-Trent. 28th, 29th and 30th August 2004.



What's the joke ?



One of our younger members.



New chairman banished to corner!

Why Not Do Something for the Branch?

The West Riding Branch is not as active as some other IWA branches, which for example have regular guided walks etc. This is due to lack of branch manpower to do these things.

Or in other words, lack of volunteers.

There are a number of jobs that people could do without even being on the branch committee. Though with only six or seven committee meetings a year, it doesn't necessarily take up too much time to attend them.

For example the branch tries to monitor local planning applications to ensure that new proposals are in keeping with the waterway character of the area.

But monitoring planning applications is a rather add hoc affair because we do not have any one to do it.

And even when we know about a planning application, then someone has to get down to the relevant planning office, look at the plans and decide to see if there are any aspects of the planning application we would want to object to. And then write the letter of objection.

Currently a member of the IWA North East Region committee keeps an eye on York. While your honorary secretary does his best to keep an eye on West Yorkshire and the rest of the branch area.

Another job that someone could do, is pull together all the information out there about the various surviving waterways related buildings and waterway features in our area.

You may have read our National Chairman's column in the May edition of "Waterways" about protecting our waterway heritage. Currently the branch has no record of these historic features along our local waterways.

These historic features, ranging from coal chutes to items such as pulley wheels, are key to understanding how our waterways worked in the past. We have a duty to retain them as part of the essential character of our navigations.

So if you want to do your bit in the "Campaign for Real Canals", speak to a member of the branch committee.

The Milepost.

Is there anyone out there who could help the branch by writing something for inclusion in the Milepost. Have you been on an interesting boating trip? Tell us about it. Is there something waterways related you feel strongly about? Write us a letter about it. Any amusing stories? Tell us all! E-mail us at boblaing@blueyonder.co.uk , hand it to one of us, or post it to any committee member before the beginning of December. We look forward to hearing from you.

‘A Warm Welcome.’

The West Riding Branch extends a warm welcome to these members who have joined us during this year. We hope to meet you at some of our social meetings.

March: Mr and Mrs Balycky Huddersfield

April: Mr and Mrs Brookes Huddersfield
Mr and Mrs Greenwood Cleckheaton
Mr and Mrs Jones Holmfirth
Mr and Mrs Leadbeater Batley
Mr and Mrs Martin York
Mr and Mrs Poole Leeds

May: Mr Roberts Honley
Mr Robinson & Ms Trainer Keighley
Mr Hasney Northallerton

June: Mr Healey York
Mr Teale Pudsey

July: Mr Baverstock York
Mr Crease Bradford
Mr Derry Ripon
Ms Downes & Mr Brown Halifax
Mr Field Bradford
Mr Goldrick Wakefield
Mr and Mrs Ham Settle
Mr Hogg York
Mr and Mrs Hornby Thirsk
Mr King Harrogate
Mr Milligan & Ms Hollman Harrogate
Mr and Mrs Moore Leeds
Mr Taylor Ripon
Mr and Mrs West Dewsbury

New members cont.

August: Mr Buckley	Huddersfield
Mr and Mrs Carter	Huddersfield
Mr Hirst	Huddersfield
Mrs Robinson	Bradford
Mr Powell	Leeds

Waterway Related Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Details</u>
26/09/2004	Summit Boat Rally	Rochdale Canal at Littleborough at
03/10/2004	IWA South Yorks & Dukeries Branch Canal clean-up, Sheffield	0114268927
09/10/2004	Goose Fair, Gander boat gathering Nottingham	0115 925 2917
09/10/2004	Leeds & Liverpool Canal Soc. Walk from Shipley up the Bradford Canal	Meet 1.pm Shipley Warehouse contact is Mike Hustler on 012782 816 476
16/10/2004	Charity Ceilidh Proceeds to Barnsley Dearne & Dove Canal Trust	At The Fleets, Smithies Lane Barnsley. Contact Derek on 01226 790341
14/11/2004	Rochdale Canal Society Walk from Hebden Bridge to Todmorden	Meet Hebden Bridge Marina 1.30pm Contact is :- Frank Scott 01706 527 042

IWA/Wrg Stamp Bank. Raising Funds for Canal Restoration.

Recycle for Canals.

Stamp bank uses the principle of recycling to raise funds for canal restoration. It may be by collecting together small quantities into re-sellable volumes, cashing in vouchers or tokens to buy raffle prizes or just knowing who will part with cash for a particular item. We currently collect the following.

Used Postage stamps

Any country or age - preferably trimmed about 5mm around the stamp. Stamp collections are also welcome.

Coins and notes

Any currency , current or obsolete.

Aluminium

Foil, cans (not steel!) ring pulls, etc.

Printer cartridges.

Any make

Trading stamps.

Books or loose stamps - and vouchers which can be turned into goods.

Die cast models.

Dinky, Corgi, etc. In any condition.

Please send donations to:-

S.L.Hobson, 24, North Terrace, Birstall, W. Yorks. WF17 9EV

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