

# Mile Post



**The Magazine of the  
West Riding Branch**



The Inland  
Waterways  
Association

**January 2010**

## **Contents**

Branch Chairman's Notes .....	3
New Year's Resolutions.....	4
December Meeting.....	5
Proposal that our Ouse/Ure Section become a separate IWA Branch within the North East and Yorkshire Region.....	6
A Rambler's View of Narrow Boating .....	7
The Annual General Meeting of the IWA West Riding Branch.....	11
The Annual General Meeting of the IWA North East and Yorkshire Region.....	12
2010 Events.....	13
[Meet Your Committee.....	14
Peter Scott's musings for the New Year 2010:.....	15
Stamp Collection.....	16
'A Warm Welcome!'.....	17
Advertising in 'The Mile Post'.....	17
The Mile Post.....	17
Map showing location of meeting venue.....	18
Committee Members 2009 / 2010.....	19
Programme of Events for 2010/11.....	20

## **IWA Headquarters**

### **Registered Office**

The Inland Waterways Association

Island House

Moor Road

CHESHAM

HP5 1WA

**Telephone** - 01494 783453 **Web site** [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk)

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.

### **Front cover.**

The Big Freeze. By Peter Scott

# **Branch Chairman's Notes**



Hello. Welcome to 2010. In case you have missed the latest news, Peter took over as North East & Yorkshire Region Chairman from September. The Branch Committee then asked me to take over the job of Branch Chairman.

In 2009 we managed some interesting boating in various boats, starting with the Thames (I steered through the Thames barrier) and taking in the Liverpool Link, the Lancaster Canal, the Chesterfield Canal, Bristol and several

bits in between. The common factor of the tidal bits was just getting there in time before the tidal gates were shut against us. This boating year must be less exciting though equally enjoyable.

One of the successes of the IWA in 2009 was the support given to the online petition against the sale of the BW properties portfolio. Thank you all who signed, and if you didn't, please do so. As the message from headquarters said "I would encourage everyone to continue to publicise and seek support for the petition".

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/protectourcanals/>

The SOS campaign is still going on – see a later article. (Page 4 - Ed.) Please support it.

I hope to see you at our meetings. If you can't get there because of transport problems let me know. It may be possible to put you in touch with someone who can offer a lift, at least from and to the station..

Elaine Scott

## **Late News Item**

Clive Henderson, who was due to attend the January meeting, is now coming to the November meeting instead.

We contacted all those we could, either by phone or email, to say the January meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Apologies to anyone we missed.

# New Year's Resolutions

Just in case you haven't made any or find you have too much spare time here are a few suggestions

## **SOS 2010**

“It is the ordinary IWA member who will ultimately determine the success or failure of the SOS 2010 campaign”. **So what can you do?**

- ◆ Go for a walk along a stretch of canal or river Note anything that needs attention – overhanging trees, damaged bank, rubbish lying around, and tell someone about it. Report it, with a picture if possible, on the SOS web site or tell any member of the committee by phone or letter
- ◆ Take some SOS leaflets (available from the committee) with you on your walk and give them to other walkers and fishermen you meet
- ◆ Take some leaflets or a poster into your local library, community centre, etc.

## **Planning Applications**

- ◆ While on that walk, note any planning notices. Tell me by email, phone or letter
- ◆ Read your local paper. Tell me about any planning applications that might impact on the waterways

## **Politics**

- ◆ Talk to your friends and colleagues about the waterways and our funding difficulties
- ◆ Persuade them all to sign the waterways petition.
- ◆ Write to your MP about the waterways – there is guidance available from us to help with the words
- ◆ When canvassed for your opinions mention the waterways
- ◆ When canvassed by a candidate mention the waterways and ask their stance on the canal system

Above all, let people know that the waterways exist and that the IWA is striving to keep them in a good state. Please wear your corporate clothing (details available from me) when you can, and advertise the IWA.

Elaine

\*\*\*\*\*

## **December Meeting.**

Our December get-together was very enjoyable, with plenty of festive fare and a free raffle. We presented our meeting organisers, Katy and Alastair Sayles, with a gift to thank them for their hard work. If you were at the AGM last year you will remember the presentation from Ellen Sayles, one of our youngest members. To contrast with this we had a presentation of ‘Christmas on the Cut’ by one of our oldest members, Peggy Furniss. The talk covered Christmases from 1996 to 2007 and was well illustrated with photographs.



**Peggy Furniss giving a presentation at our December meeting.**

## **Proposal that our Ouse/Ure Section become a separate IWA Branch within the North East and Yorkshire Region.**

A meeting has been arranged to discuss a new North Yorkshire Branch of the IWA. It will be held on Tuesday 9th February 2010 at 7.30pm in St Olave's Church Hall, Marygate Lane (off Marygate) York YO30 7BJ

A Special Meeting of members has been arranged to consider the setting up of a new IWA Branch 'The North Riding Branch', proposed to replace, by March 2011, the Yorkshire Ouse Section, which for three years has been concerned with the waterways from Ripon in the west to Goole in the east, covering Rivers Ouse, Foss, Nidd, and Ure and the Ripon Canal.

The meeting will elect a committee of seven who will appoint Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and arrange meetings for themselves and for members. We are seeking volunteers who are willing to be involved, hopefully for at least the three years to see the new Branch working fully. This committee, and our current branches and the Region, will consider the exact boundaries and make proposals to our National Trustee Board.

The Acting Chairman, Tony Martin would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved. Contact him on :-  
Tel- 07588-236597 or e-mail [tonymartin451@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonymartin451@yahoo.co.uk)

Work of the Section has included publishing 'Ouse News', distributed free in the area and paid for by advertising from local marinas and boatyards. It has also arranged for six local members to be trained as lock keepers for Castle Mills Lock in York, which gives (free) access for boaters to the River Foss which was previously very expensive to arrange with York City Council, the navigation Authority for the Foss.

The West Riding Branch, the East Yorkshire Branch and the North East and Yorkshire Region all hope the initiative will be successful.

# A RAMBLER'S VIEW OF NARROW-BOATING

Now 70 (ish) years of age I took up long distance walking almost 30 years ago, since when my wife and myself have covered many of the well known national and regional trails.

Accompanying us on several of them have been life long friends Alan and Sheila Smith and they have, for some time, been the owners of 2 narrow boats - first the "Winterburn" and later also the "Ufton".

What I will attempt to do , during this short series of articles , is describe the experience of a canal holiday through the eyes of a dedicated hiker. First on the Leeds - Liverpool waterway in late August and early September 1996 and then on the Kennet -Avon in April 2009.

## **"ON BOARD THE 'WINTERBURN'"**

### **SKIPTON 31ST AUGUST 1996**

The four of us had agreed to meet at Pennine Cruisers canal side premises at 2pm and this was my first sight of the narrow boat "Winterburn".

It appeared to me , as I looked down on it, to be both very small and very narrow. I was told that it was 56 feet in length from tip to toe ( or should that be from "fore to aft") and some 7 feet ( maximum ) in width. We were all to eat, sleep, cook, wash and bathe within these narrow confines for the next seven days and I had the first inkling of how much I might miss the comfort of a room in a bed and breakfast or hotel as I would normally have done at the end of a strenuous day in the hills.

"At least," I thought to myself " I'll have time to read , or think , or write or just daydream - I won't have to worry about becoming lost or carry a compass - I can just RELAX".

As all narrow boat aficionados will know -

## I WAS WRONG .

We had been on our way for approximately 120 yards when, as I was inspecting the latrines ( or ‘heads’ as I understand the nautical term to be ), my host shouted from above ,“Brewery Bridge! “

The tone of his voice told me that I was ,at that immediate moment , required to do something.

I returned post haste to the deck and there saw Sheila leaping from the boat to the canal side. I followed suit , quite unaware of why I was doing this,but within moments being instructed in the fine art of opening and closing the first of five road bridges we were to encounter during the course of no more than the next mile or two. So much for relaxation and solitary contemplation for, no sooner were the bridges behind us, then the locks hove into view . Eshton, Highland, Anchor, Scarton - raise top paddles, open bottom gates , lower top paddles , close bottom gates, raise bottom paddles , raise top paddles , lower bottom paddles , open top gates, lower top paddles , close top gates - I know I probably have this out of order but hopefully no one following on that day nearly 13 years ago will bear a grudge - oh -and don’t forget to lock any mechanisms previously locked.

Our “skipper” over steered on one occasion and ran the ‘Winterburn “ into the canal side bringing away, as he put her astern, considerable foliage but no one appeared unduly concerned.

I recall the bridges and the locks and the encounter with the canal side still and also of then realizing that , although walking and narrow boating may, essentially, have the same objective - namely to journey pleurably from Point A to Point B - the enjoyment to be gained from hiking is in a route successfully planned, in achieving a measured step and in a height overcome. Whereas in narrow boating the pleasure is not in planning the route ( for there is only one ) or the measured step ( for there is only one ) or the height gained ( for that is hardly ever greater than 12 feet at a time) but in the contrast between periods of inactivity and frantic over activity.

Putting it another way, the walker does not yearn for problems - he does not seek bogs , walls or wire fences to enhance his day - but I rather suspect the narrow boater would be upset if there were no bridges or locks to overcome, or overhanging branches to duck under, or bushes to sail into - but more of that next time.

At the end of the first day's travail we had reached Gargrave and were a massive four miles into our journey!

**1st SEPTEMBER 1996**

### **GARGRAVE TO EAST MARTON**

This, as it happened, was Sunday and the entire day ( save for about 5 minutes) had a "Sundayish" feel to it.

There was an almost ethereal atmosphere as we glided across Priestholme aqueduct high above the Aire and, apart from negotiating the 6 lock rise at Newton Bank, there was little physical activity allowing us to enjoy what, for me, was the finest and most memorable landscape of the entire journey . I write of that magnificent section lying between Newton Grange and East Marton, where the waterway clings to the contours of the Pennine foothills with the "Winterburn" twisting and turning along its course as if it were some green/red river serpent seeking a resting place. Views appeared and disappeared - of farms in the valley below , of hills and mountains in the distance - of woods and of streams - of cattle drinking from the canal which itself , at magical times was entirely embowered by its surrounding trees - of stone walls and barns - of swans and their families - of all that nature in her wonder can provide. The experience matched , and still matches , anything I have encountered as a walker.

It was, of course, too good to last for a landlubber such as myself.

I had been eyeing the tiller for some time - secretly wondering what it would be like to have 56 feet of wood and metal under my control and then, as we approached our day's destination , Alan offered me command.

It was an unhappy experience for us all.

I learned quickly (although neither well or for long enough) the following facts

1. To go right one turns the tiller left ( and vice versa).
2. There is no brake on a boat.

I had rammed the Winterburn into the canal side within 3 minutes , perhaps a world record not to be bettered because the control mechanism was removed from my grasp and was not to be returned for some considerable time .

We managed a walk (once East Marton was reached) of some 4 miles to Thornton in Craven and back. It lay partly along the Pennine Way which the 4 of us had conquered some 10 years previously and as we returned I reflected on how easy walking can be. No need to find reverse gear in order to stop, little thought required when turning right or left.

Why did narrow boats have to be so .....AWKWARD!

**By Bill Dodds.** ( TO BE CONTINUED .)



The double-arched bridge at East Marton

# **The Annual General Meeting of the IWA** **West Riding Branch**

This will be held at approximately 8.30pm (following the Region AGM) on FRIDAY 12th MARCH 2010 at the Social Club, Top Floor, Centenary House, North Street, LEEDS LS2 8JS.

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM and any matters arising from these minutes.
3. Report from Branch Chairman (Elaine Scott.)
4. Financial Report.
5. Election of members of the committee.
6. Proposed (Peter Scott) that the Branch supports our Ouse/Ure Section in its aspiration to become a separate IWA Branch with in the North East & Yorkshire Region.
7. Any other items requested by members of the branch provided the branch chairman was notified in writing of the item at least six weeks prior to the AGM (29 January 2010) (\*)

(\*)

Elaine Scott

3 Moorbank Drive

Sheffield

S10 5TH

t: 0114 2301870

e: [elaine@homescott.free-online.co.uk](mailto:elaine@homescott.free-online.co.uk)

# **The Annual General Meeting of the IWA North East and Yorkshire Region.**

This will be held at 8pm on FRIDAY 12th MARCH 2010 at the Social Club, Top Floor, Centenary House, North Street, LEEDS LS2 8JS.

## **Agenda.**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the 2009 AGM and any matters arising from these minutes
3. Report from Region Chairman and National IWA Trustee (Peter Scott)
4. Financial report
5. Election of members of the committee
6. Any items requested by members of the region provided the region chairman was notified in writing of the item at least six weeks prior to the AGM (29 January 2010) (\*)
7. Any business not notified on this agenda (at the discretion of the chairman - NOTE that no decisions may be made on this business).

(\*)

Peter Scott

3 Moorbank Drive

Sheffield

S10 5TH

t: 0114 2301870

e: [peter.scott@waterways.org.uk](mailto:peter.scott@waterways.org.uk)

# **2010 EVENTS**

**1st to 14th March 2010.** British Waterways Towpath Tidy. For details contact your local BW office or see Waterscape website [www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/features/towpath-tidy-2010](http://www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/features/towpath-tidy-2010)

**Saturday 24th April 2010.** Cuckoo Day at Standedge Tunnel. For details see [www.standedge.co.uk/events.htm](http://www.standedge.co.uk/events.htm) or contact James Dean, Visitor Services Manager on [info@standedge.co.uk](mailto:info@standedge.co.uk) or telephone 07920 283966.

**\* Saturday 1st to Monday 3rd May 2010.** Skipton Waterways Festival. For details see [www.penninecruisers.com](http://www.penninecruisers.com) or telephone 01756 795478.

**\* Sunday 11th July 2010.** Dragonboat Racing on River Ouse in York. For details see [www.yorkrotary.co.uk/dragonboat.htm](http://www.yorkrotary.co.uk/dragonboat.htm)

**Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 July 2010.** Leeds Waterfront Festival. For details contact Rachel Clunas on 07917 780 151 or [rachel.clunas@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:rachel.clunas@britishwaterways.co.uk)

**Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 July 2010.** Chesterfield Canal Festival 2010. Worksop Rugby Club, Morse Lock, Worksop. For more details e-mail [festival@chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk](mailto:festival@chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk) or see [www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk/index.php/events/festival](http://www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk/index.php/events/festival)

**\* Saturday 28 until Monday 30 August 2010.** IWA National Waterways Festival to be held at Beale Park, River Thames, Pangbourne, Nr Reading.

**Come and give your support to the SOS Campaign at the West Riding Branch stand, which will be attending events marked \* .**

# Meet Your Committee

## **William Jowitt Treasurer**

My first experience of the Inland Waterways was in the late 70's when we owned a 24 ft Dolphin cabin cruiser which we moored on the Thames at Benson. We enjoyed the Thames for 3 years but when child number 3 came along the boat was replaced by a caravan for the next 25 years.

When we moved to Yorkshire in the late 80's we settled in Bingley close to the 5 Rise locks and my office overlooked the Leeds Liverpool canal in Shipley so the canal was never far from us.

As retirement approached the building and owning of a canal boat became a dream and this has been realised in the last 3 years. I undertook most of the internal fit out.

An opportunity earlier this year to purchase a bungalow with an end of garden mooring at Silsden will ensure the canal remains central to our lives for the foreseeable future. We were members of the IWA while boating on the Thames and rejoined some 5 years ago becoming treasurer of the West Riding Branch 2 years ago.



# Peter Scott's musings for the New Year 2010:

- Things Are Happening On The Waterways.
- We Can All Help
- Technology Helps Us To Help.

November and December 2009 have been important months for our Waterways cause. The Government have been considering once more whether British Waterways should retain ownership of the (so-called non-operational) property that it uses to generate a fair chunk of its waterway-maintenance revenue. Investment in property might or might not be a good way to fund our Waterways; but any changes during the current economic conditions would certainly leave us even worse off.

So BW began a lobbying campaign to head-off the changes. IWA made available to MPs our views and supporting arguments, and there was an Adjournment Debate in the Commons. And there was an electronic petition that 20,000 people signed, to make it eighth on No 10's current petition list. It is still worth signing: see

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/protectourcanals/>

To have been part of this debate, and to support IWA and the Waterways, we could all do more than read about it, historically, in the waterways press. We could have most influence by being online. And if sitting at a keyboard on the Internet isn't your thing, is there someone in the family who might be persuaded to keep you in touch? Maybe the ten-year-old who is the family expert on working the DVD recorder?

2010 will be General Election year: all the political parties will be more influenced by individuals' online views and lobbying than in any previous election. We need as many of us as we can achieve to be watching developments, and adding our own voices.

Of course, it's not just lobbying that can be done online. We need more wise-and-balanced heads contributing to Internet message boards: there's

lots of useful information there already and it's fun (and quite addictive) to add our own views. It doesn't have to be the 'IWA-view', but it is best to keep to the discussion and dilute the occasional hot-headed personal comments. This board – Canal World - is best:

<http://www.canalworld.net/forums/>

We can plan boating or walking trips online with CanalplanAC:

<http://canalplan.org.uk/>

We can worry about the latest waterway stoppages with Waterscape:

<http://www.waterscape.com/boating/stoppages/>

And we can keep in touch with the IWA

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

If I can help to make 2010 your Online Year, please email me

[Peter.Scott@waterways.org.uk](mailto:Peter.Scott@waterways.org.uk)

Peter Scott

Regional Chairman IWA NorthEast & Yorkshire

\*\*\*\*\*

## Stamp Collection



Ellen and Ailsa Sayles delivered a big bag of stamps at last year's National Waterway Festival at Ratcliffe on Soar. Many thanks to everyone who sent in their donations of stamps. Please keep them coming in. Send or give them to Ellen, Ailsa or any committee member.

A big thank you to Ellen and Ailsa for all their hard work.

## **‘A Warm Welcome!’**

The West Riding Branch extends a warm welcome to members who have joined us since the last Mile Post. We look forward to meeting you at one of our monthly meetings or to hearing from you.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Advertising in ‘The Mile Post’.**

If your organization would like to advertise in a future edition of ‘The Mile Post’ please contact Bob or Tricia Laing on 01274 581800 or e-mail [boblaing@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:boblaing@blueyonder.co.uk)

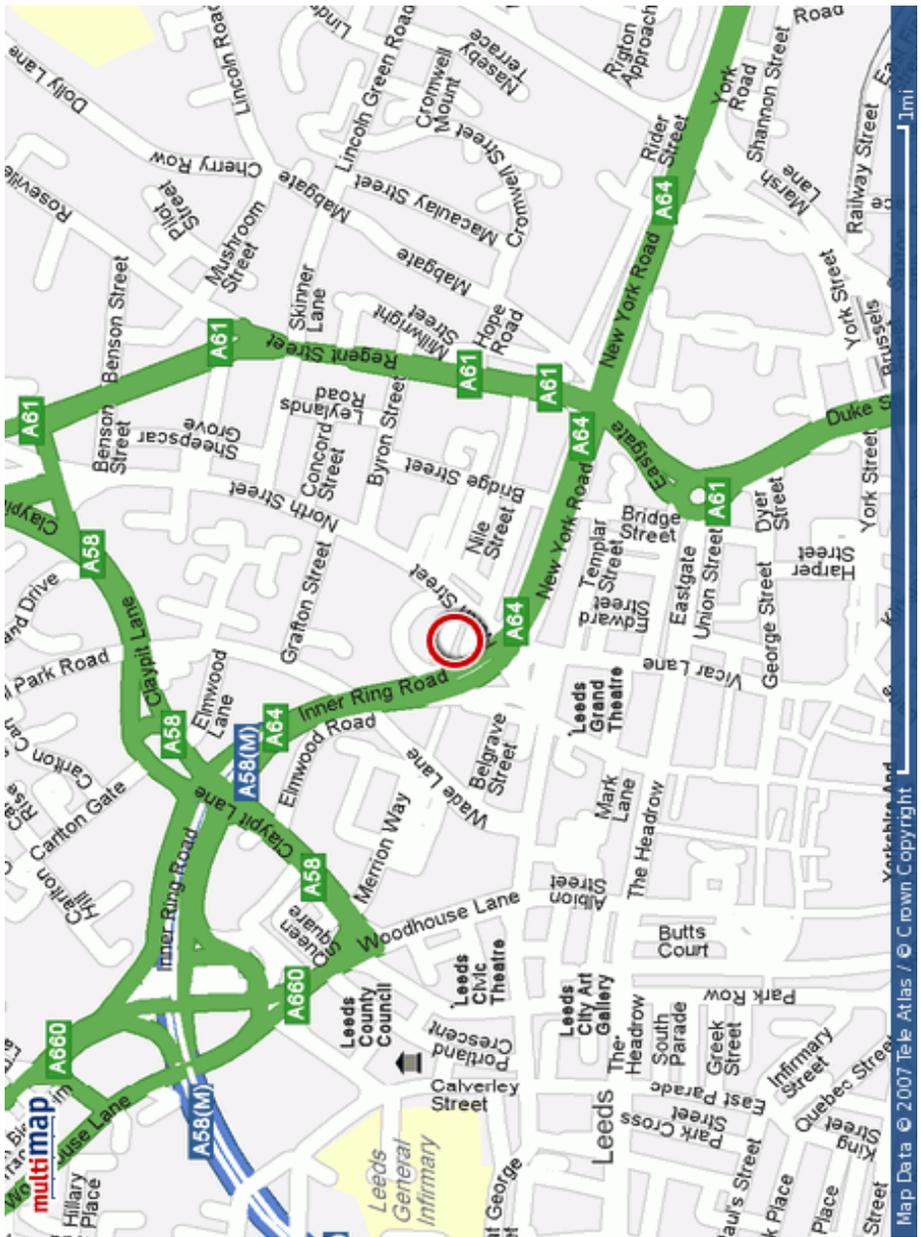
A full page advertisement is £40 and a half page is £20. Over 500 copies of the magazine are posted to IWA West Riding Branch members and are also distributed at various waterway events throughout the year.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Mile Post.**

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](mailto:boblaing@blueyonder.co.uk) , hand it to one of us, or post it to any committee member before the end of April. We look forward to hearing from you.

**We would like to give a big thank-you to all the people who have already sent us articles for inclusion in the Mile Post. You have made our job much easier and our magazine more interesting.**



## Map showing location of meeting venue

Centenary House, North Street, Leeds LS2 8AY

## Committee Members 2009 / 2010

### **Chairman**

Elaine Scott  
3 Moorbank Drive  
Sheffield S10 5TH  
*Home* 0114 230 1870

### **Secretary**

Ian Moore  
2 Eric Street,  
Bramley  
Leeds. LS13 1ET  
*Mobile* 07989 112581  
*E-mail* westriding@waterways.org.uk

### **Treasurer**

William Jowitt  
Oak Lodge  
1 Oakridge Court  
Bingley BD16 4 TA  
*Home* 01274 567950

### **Membership Secretary**

Chris Pinder  
152 High Street  
Yeadon  
Leeds LS19 7AB  
*Home* 01132 509371

### **Minutes Secretary**

Liz Pinder  
152 High Street  
Yeadon  
Leeds LS19 7AB  
*Home* 01132 509371

### **Mile Post Editor**

Bob Laing  
25 Bankfield Road  
Shipley BD18 4AJ  
*Home* 01274 581800  
*E-mail* boblaing@blueyonder.co.uk

### **Mile Post Editor**

Tricia Laing  
25 Bankfield Road  
Shipley BD18 4AJ  
*Home* 01274 581800

### **Committee member**

Elliott Mosley  
23 Glenholm Road  
Baildon  
Shipley BD17 5QB  
*Home* 01274 581413

### **Committee member**

**Regional Chairman**  
Peter Scott  
3 Moorbank Drive  
Sheffield S10 5TH  
*Home* 0114 230 1870

### **Non Committee Posts**

### **Meeting Co-ordinators**

Katie & Alastair Sayles  
*Home* 0113 393 4517  
*E-mail:* kandal@btinternet.com

### **Telephone contact**

Alistair Furniss  
*Home* 0113 253 9401

### **Northern Rivers Officer (Tyne, Wear & Tees).**

John Reeve  
10 Perth Grove  
Stockton-on-Tees  
Cleveland TS18 5BF  
*Home* 01642 580350

# **Programme of Events for 2010/11.**

**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.**

- 12th February 10** 'Canalside Pubs.' by Mike Lucas.
- 12th March 10** AGM
- 9th April 10** '30 years of Jubilee Venture, introducing young people to the waterways through the scout movement.' by Geoff Auty.
- 10th September 10** The Basingstoke Canal -an update.
- 8th October 10** Canals of the 60's by John Greenaway
- 12th November 10** National Chairman Clive Henderson.
- 10th December 10** Christmas Social and Members' slides.
- 14th January 11** "Canal Engineering and the Great Egg Race" by Geoff Auty

Talks arranged by Alastair and Katy Sayles, 32 Pymont Drive, Woodlesford, Leeds LS26 8WA. Tel 0113 393 4517  
Email: [kandal@btinternet.com](mailto:kandal@btinternet.com)

**All the 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.**