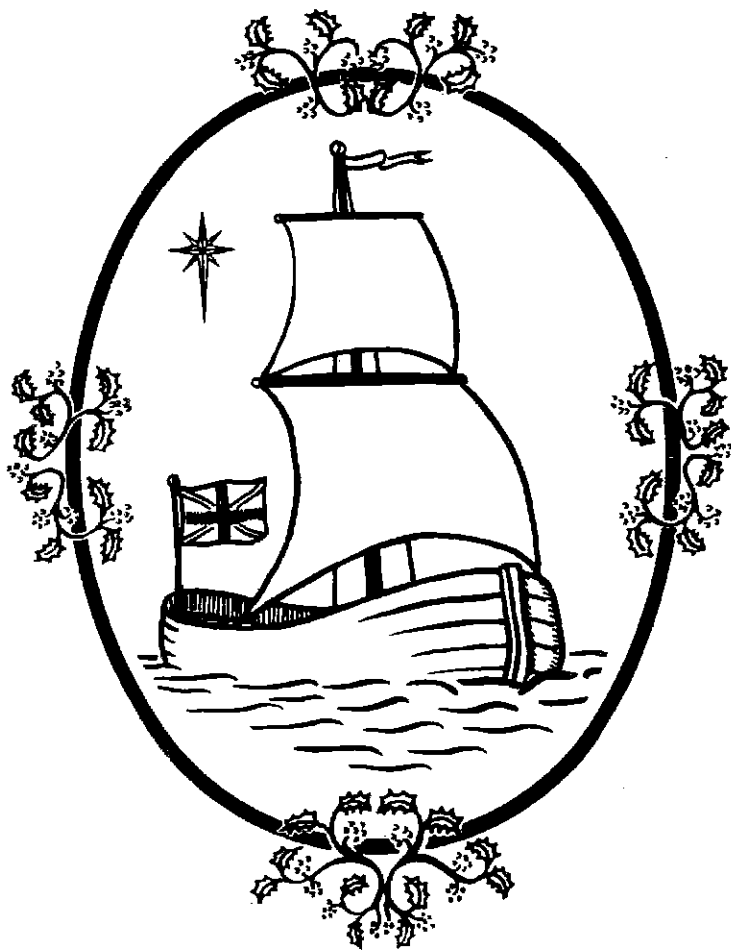


# THE TROW



*Stroudwater, Thames & Severn  
Canal Trust Limited*

**No. 12 December 1975**

# Editorial

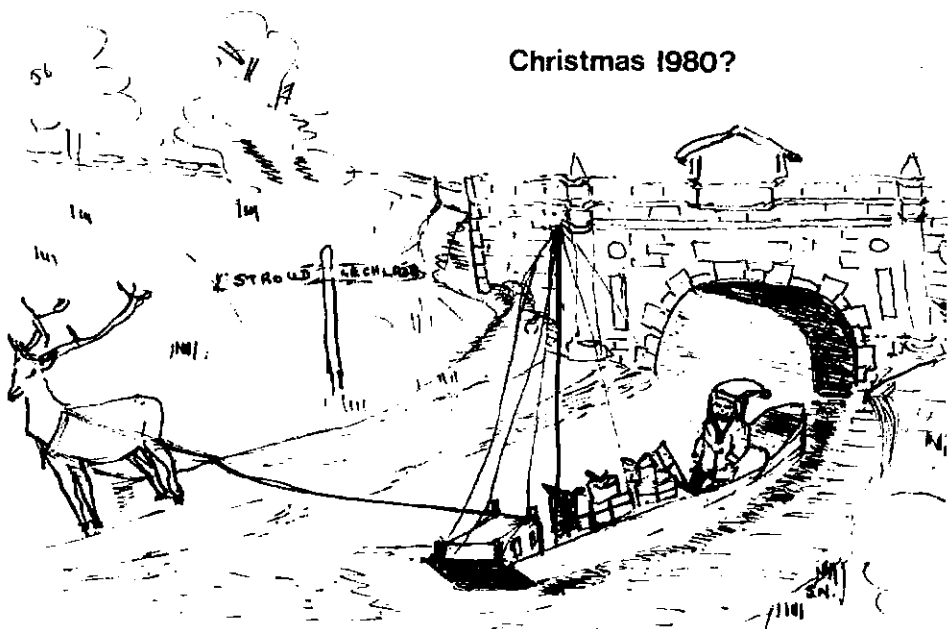


By the time this issue reaches you, the festive season will be fast approaching, and I take the opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. If it should prove more prosperous than usual, please spare a little for the Trust! A lot of progress has been made in the last year, but we rely on your financial, practical and moral support in order to keep up the momentum.

These notes will be fairly short (did I hear faint cheers?) as contributions to the magazine have been coming in quite steadily, and there is much more interesting reading on other pages. My thanks to all contributors, and keep up the good work. All being well between now and publication date, this issue will include some photographs, for the first time in the history of "The Trow", and I trust the results will prove to the liking of readers.

Trow Editor: Mr.R.O.Nott, Lynfield, Frome Park Road, Stroud,  
Glos. GL5 3LF

Christmas 1980?



# Chairman's Report

A particularly historic event occurred during this last Quarter, when the Trust invited The Earl Bathurst to cut the first spade of restoration at Coates. This started off the Cirencester Section working parties, who are clearing the section of canal between the Coates Portal and Tarlton Road bridge. Next Spring the first work on restoration of this famous entrance will start and volunteers are wanted, especially those experienced in masonry, to work under the supervision of skilled masons. What a perfect work site this is; excellent neighbours and landowners, the canal concrete-lined, dumping access, a superb pub, lock-up accommodation, toilets - who could ask for anything more?

For the other site at Bowbridge it has been rather a 'silly season' with many people on holiday or helping at Coates, or doing those small jobs which got left when draglining took place. Bowbridge has become badly weeded, much to our dismay, due, I believe, to Dave's pipe, the 80ft. long bypass tube at Griffins Mill, which during this long hot summer has heated the water passing through it and, by raising the temperature in Bowbridge, promoted weed growth far in excess of other pounds of the canal. Next Spring we hope effectively to fix next season's reeds at one fell swoop.

With Winter coming on, Bowbridge/Ham Mill working parties must return to their former glory. It is unfortunate that Dave Elliott is giving up working parties, but he is now to concentrate on Fund Raising. Without money we cannot work and the double job is too much for anyone to encompass. Robin Finn, who has much experience of canal work, is taking on the job of Working Party Organiser for a year and I know Robin will make a superb job of the Western worksite.

On the question of Fund Raising, the Trust now has an appeals organiser, Neil Rumbol, who, from the remoteness of Essex has superbly organised the printing and distribution of 50,000 copies of an appeal pamphlet throughout the national waterways magazines. We can now only sit back and await the outcome. Priority for the funds will be the Tunnel portals, starting with the one at Coates which needs an immediate injection of £3000 to restore it to better-than-new condition, a truly worthy cause. The policy for restoring the portal is to employ skilled masons using traditional stone and the time-honoured methods of re-establishing decayed stone - not the current waterways practice of one ton of cement, an air compressor and Gunnite the lot of it!

On the management side of the Trust we have been busy in obtaining a group of very distinguished Vice-Presidents, all of whom are connected with either the restoration of waterways or local interests, and we are indebted to them for their patronage. The question of nominating a President is still in the melting-pot but hopefully this will be resolved shortly. The Vice-Presidents are:- Lord Greenwood of Rossendale, Sir George Dowty, Sir John Knill, Mr. Anthony Kershaw, M.P., J.S.F. Pollitzer Esq., Robert Aickman Esq. and John Humphries Esq.

Now operating at Coates is the Jones Crane which has been so painstakingly restored by Tom Robinson. Having seen this crane when it was first purchased one would have difficulty in believing it was the same item of plant and not a new model. The thoroughness with which Tom has restored this machine is exemplified by the paint carefully colouring the inside of the cogs. The crane is named "Uncle Tom" - what else?

Over the past two years the Trust has received several donations for plant. The most recent was £500 from a member who has given other donations on previous occasions. It is with donations such as these that we can buy the kit we so badly need, and we are most grateful to the donors.

Stroud's annual problem of water supply has presented itself once again and I feel confident that this could be overcome without too much difficulty. There is adequate space for water storage in large quantities in the Frome Valley. There is a fine channel to supply it - the canal - and it only takes careful thought by a few in authority. We were promised that all aspects of water resources would be integrated when the Water Authorities took over but it appears from the outside that one department has no connection with the next. Come and talk to the Trust - we may not solve all the problems but a million gallons a day would go a long way to alleviate the situation.

MIKE AYLAND.

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RUSSIAN CANAL. The Russians, we note, have just completed a new canal, 200 miles long, from the Baltic to the White Sea. Just a little job, able to accommodate the 5200-ton Kashin-class destroyers!

NATIONAL RALLY 1977. The 1977 National Rally of Boats is to be at Reading. The Guinness Trophy goes to the most arduous unpowered voyage. This must be won by the Trust - Framilode to Reading by the quick way. Start planning, chaps!

HIGHWAYS. The Highway Lobby need £1067 million for road-building in 1975-76. How about a bit of volunteer labour there to cut costs? Working parties will be held first Sunday in the month on the M5, M52 and A416.

SOUTHERN CANAL SOCIETIES. A very successful meeting of the Association of Southern Canal Societies was held on the Thames and Severn in September. This Association was formed to mutually exchange ideas and help in any way possible. Those represented were the Surrey and Hants, the Wey and Arun, the West Sussex, Waterways Recovery Group, and apologies were received from Neath and Tennant and Kennet and Avon. These meetings, held three times a year, unite the waterways movement to one aim, the restoration of canals wherever they are beneficial to the area, and where aren't they?

Cirencester Committee Member David Viner, unbeknown to other members of the Committee, recently married. The Trust's good wishes go to him and his wife Lyn...a towpath companion.

Conversation overheard regarding construction of plastic lock gates: "Well, you could have them with Melamine Oak finish"

An offer of a caravan for the use of the Trust was made recently, but unfortunately was not taken up at the time. If the person who kindly made the offer should read this, would he please contact Mike Ayland at Saul 385.

CONTROVERSY. With the restoration of Coates Portal, should statues of Father Thames and Madame Sabrina be found and replaced? Write to "The Trow" and give your views.  
N.B. Bill Joy or Chris Draper will not be used as models for either statue!!

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## Trow Restoration Group

We would like a band of members NOT involved in anything else to research the remaining Trows (the floating variety, not the magazine!) with a view to restoration or even preservation, also to compile a documented history and record of these almost extinct vessels.

This is an urgent and vitally important part of maritime history directly connected with the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn canals. Today is almost too late - tomorrow will be - so please act NOW.

(Editor's Note) Readers will have seen the articles in the last two issues, and a certain amount of interest in this subject has already been generated. I already have a certain amount of information on these vessels from various sources, and if anyone cares to let me have any photographs, negatives, news of existing hulks, or whatever, I shall be pleased to act as a "clearing house" and undertake to return all original documents if requested. Please ring me on Stroud 3014 or write to Lynfield, Frome Park Road, Stroud.

## Photographs

Are you one of the many people who walk the canal with six Leica's, 1 Double Pentax and 6 jars of hypo, whom we see so often taking photographs of work in progress? If so, we would like to hear from you. We are always in need of good photos and colour slides for publicity use in magazines, at lectures, &c., so if you have any surplus black and white prints  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$  colour slides or 35mm colour slides please send them to Riverside, Pridding, Saul, Glos.

1	H	O	R	S	E	B	A	R	G	E		A	S	T	I	
	E		E	X		N		U		F		T		N		
10	A	S	C	O	T		11	S	T	E	E	L	Y	A	R	D
	D		T	R		W		S		A		R		U		
	12	P	A	R	A	P	E	T	S		13	T	U	R	K	S
14	B		N			R		E		T						T
15	I	N	G	E	S	T	S		17	S	P	O	N	S	O	R
	T		L			T				P		H				I
19	T	H	E	Y	A	R	D		21	G	A	S	P	I	P	E
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30	E	A	S	T		30	I	R	O	N	B	R	I	D	G	E

Solution to Crossword  
No.3

Several intrepid puzzlers submitted solutions to our prize crossword. Unfortunately, none of them were entirely correct. The nearest correct solution, however, with only one slight error, came from Ron & Joan Oakley, Half Acre, Bishop Sutton, Bristol, BS18 4UR, and our Treasurer will be in contact with them in due course. To the rest of you, thank you for trying!

There is no crossword in this issue, instead we have a slightly different puzzle based on an idea submitted by one of our members, Miss A.M.Osborne. It is possible that a Junior Crossword may be printed in the next issue - I have a feeling that most of our senior members will find this less brain-taxing!

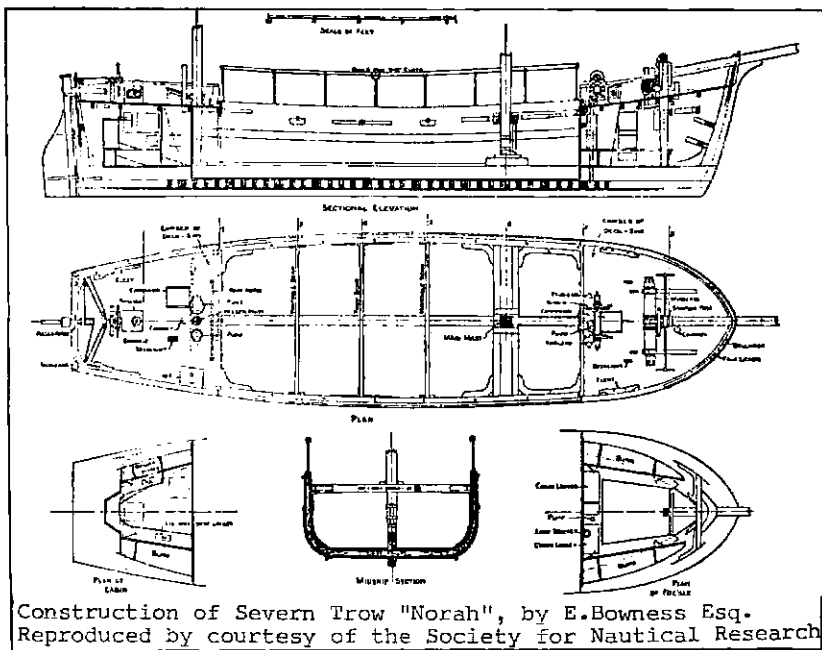
## Working Party Report

With the changeover of working party organisers, added to the fact that much of this aspect of the Trust's activities has been covered in the Chairman's and Cirencester reports, it has been decided to hold over this item until the next issue of "The Trow". Apologies to all those unsung heroes who have been slogging away for the last month or two - you are not forgotten and we hope to do you justice later!

## SCRAP WORDS

Solve the clue by filling in the missing letters. The answer has been given for No.1 - now try the others:-

	<u>CLUE</u>	<u>SCRAP WORD</u>		<u>ANSWER</u>
1.	Scholar	- OLBO -	9 letters	SCHOOLBOY
2.	Wiltshire landmark	- WEHE -	10 "	
3.	Digger	- AVAT -	9 "	
4.	Method	- HNIQ -	9 "	
5.	Arrange	- ANIS -	8 "	
6.	Wonderful	- ELLO -	10 "	
7.	Abroad	- ERSE -	8 "	
8.	Hanger-on	- RASI -	8 "	
9.	Hot or Cold?	- PERA -	11 "	
10.	Recovery	- ALES -	13 "	
11.	Enough	- FICI -	10 "	
12.	Appear	- TERI -	11 "	
13.	Records	- ARIE -	7 "	
14.	Chairman's Home	- VERS -	9 "	
15.	Musicians	- PETE -	10 "	



## INTRODUCTION TO THE POCKLINGTON CANAL

The Pocklington Canal winds for over 9 miles through the pleasant countryside west of the River Derwent from East Cottingwith to a small terminal basin on the Hull - York road 1 mile south of Pocklington, rising through nine locks en route. The canal was engineered by George Leather and built between 1815 and 1818, having the unique distinction of being built for less than the estimated cost!

The purpose of the canal was to import West Riding coal and industrial products to Pocklington and its surrounding area, in return for agricultural produce which was needed in the industrial towns. The canal enjoyed moderate success until the 1850's, but suffered at the hands of the railways and gradually fell into decay. A keel last managed to navigate to Canal Head in 1931, but only by abandoning half its load of roadstone along the way! The last craft to use the canal before total disuse set in were vessels of the intrepid Ripon Motor Boat Club, which managed to get to Melbourne, two locks and 5½ miles from the canal entrance.

The canal then lay fallow for over 30 years, surviving a suggestion in 1959 by Sheffield Corporation to infill it with sewage sludge, and the fixing of the 8 swing bridges in 1962. In 1969 the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society was formed to revive local interest in the then-threatened waterway. Membership quickly grew to about 300, and as a result of enthusiastic volunteer effort in the first two years, much of the heavy undergrowth covering the banks and canal were removed. The fabric of Thornton Lock was repaired, as well as smaller brick-work repairs at various landings and bridges.

This volunteer effort resulted in I.W.A.A.C. recommending that the canal be upgraded, with a view to eventual total restoration, and in 1970 British Waterways Board began dredging, and repaired and re-gated Cottingwith Lock, to the cost of which P.C.A.S. contributed £500. Since then, B.W.B. have restored Gardham Lock, and dredged the canal up to the tail of Thornton Lock, and will shortly replace the fixed bridges with new steel swing bridges.

If progress has been slow since 1972, it is because P.C.A.S. has had to keep a low profile, while B.W.B. negotiated first with East Riding C.C. and then the new Humberside County Authorities for grants towards restoration. It was, nevertheless, the Society which was instrumental in instigating these grants. This is, in fact, P.C.A.S. policy; to approach public authorities, sow the seeds of an idea, and then let it develop in its own way. For this reason, it has only recently become advisable to resume full working-party activity, in order to revive a waning public interest and ensure that restoration does not stop at Melbourne, but continues to Stage Two (Thornton and Warbutt Locks, and a further 2¼ miles of canal), and eventually, if possible, to the 5 locks climbing in quick succession to the terminus.

(To be continued)



When we first came to narrow-boating there were still a good number of working boatmen around to learn from. Ten years at sea had given me a good grounding in boatwork and enabled me to appreciate and assimilate the subtle technique employed in coaxing loaded boats along. Not that all boatmen's techniques were subtle - from a seaman's point of view many could be considered "bad practice", and some of the younger boatmen's tactics appalled their more conservative elders!

Ted, one of Willow Wren's captains, had his own solution to getting off the boat in a deep lock, having replaced his cabin chimney with a section of cast-iron Bolinder silencer which he used as a step. One evening he hobbled into the "Greyhound" looking sheepish, and I asked Ernie (knowing better than to tax Ted), what had happened?

"Funniest thing you ever saw" said Ernie. "I knew he'd do that 'op, skip and jump once too often." He took a long pull at his pint and chuckled. By this time half the crowd in the snug were listening and Ted was looking surly in the corner. "That cabin of his was rotten, and coming up Buckby he stepped on the chimney, and chimney, collar and Ted's leg went down through the cabin top - the stove was lit, too!"

There was a roar of laughter and even Ted managed a wry smile. "Ah, that reminds me" said Ernie, turning to my brother, "what's this I hear about you using your leg for a strapping post coming down Hillmorton?" Trevor went pink behind the ears, and hurriedly forestalled further enquiry by gathering up the glasses and stepping up to the bar for another round!

While Ted's accident merely gave us a good laugh and, in our early days, the laugh was often us "trainees", the present enthusiast narrowboaters can reflect that the professionals were by no means infallible. At the same time, the enthusiast should appreciate and emulate only the best of the working boatmen's methods. In employing risky, and sometimes downright dangerous methods, the working boatmen at least had the excuse of having to cut corners to earn their living. The enthusiast narrowboatman has no such excuse for putting himself, his boat, waterway installations and other boaters at risk.

A.E.JONES.

## INLAND WATERWAYS

Are you interested in inland waterways?  
Do you go boating or angling on our canals  
and navigable rivers? Or do you like walking  
on towpaths—or just sitting by the water?

Are you interested in the restoration of  
derelict canals?

*If so, why not join us?  
Please write for details.*

The Inland Waterways Association  
114 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UQ

# Readers' Letters

Dear Mr.Nott,

My book on the history of the Stroudwater Canal is now being published by the Moonraker Press. Volume 1, covering the years 1779-1763 comes out early next year and covers the background as well as the first three attempts to build the canal. Volume 2, covering 1763-1776, will come out in 1977 and Volume 3, covering 1776-1779 and ending with the opening day will come out in 1978. Further volumes will follow!

My wife and I are establishing the world's first, and only, specialised canal bookshop at Claydon Top Lock on the south Oxford Canal. Two more branches are planned - one at Brinklow and one at Little Venice, London. In the long term a branch on the Stroudwater or Thames & Severn is not to be excluded. The stock will include every book, map and pamphlet on canals ever printed in the English language, although the main stock will be current books in print.

I am one of the transport specialists who advise the headquarters of the European Community on transport policy. On a recent trip to Brussels I discovered that the Community plans soon to publish details of grants for environmental improvements. The Trust, the County Council, the District Council and the Canal Company - jointly or separately - would be eligible for such grants. The importance of this to the future of both canals is not possible to overestimate. It means up to 50% of total restoration costs could be covered before donations, membership fees, sponsored walks, government grants and the like. I will keep the Trust informed as soon as more details are to hand.

52 Park Street,  
Bristol.

Yours sincerely  
Mike Handford.

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read the articles on Severn Trows in the last two editions of "The Trow". With regard to the trow "HANNAH", the hull of this vessel is moored on the Severn still, approximately 1/4-mile below Lincombe Lock, just down river from Stourport.

At some time in the past an unsightly superstructure has been added to the hull, in an attempt to convert it to a house-boat. This does not now appear to be used and the vessel is falling into a state of disrepair. When last seen recently the river level was very low and she appeared to be lying on the bottom. Whether or not she will refloat when the river level rises is very debatable. It is a pity that no move is in hand to preserve her as she does not appear to have deteriorated beyond salvation, as far as it is possible to tell from a passing cruiser.

15 Woodside,  
Stroud, Glos.

Yours faithfully,  
G.J.Stickland.

Editor's note:- This correspondent will no doubt be interested in the proposed Trow Group mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

# OPERATION WORKING PARTY

1

Each Saturday and Sunday,  
Come sunshine, rain or snow,  
They turn up with their shovels  
And find out where to go.  
Now once they've got a task  
to do  
They work at it all day,  
Seluom stopping for a break,  
And working without pay.

2

They tidy up the towpath  
So's it will be one day,  
A place a horse could walk on  
Without tripping on his way.  
Lift tree-trunks from the  
cutting,  
Dig out the sludge and silt,  
To try and make this old canal  
As good as when 'twas built.

3

A lot more willing helpers  
Are what we really need,  
If we want to try and open  
Our canal with any speed,  
So if anyone can spare the  
time,  
Please come and join the 'crowd',  
And soon the Thames & Severn  
Will really do us proud.

ANN PENNY  
(Cirencester Branch)



PERSONAL COLUMN Insertion charges, £10 per line. Ravishing blondes and raving brunettes can apply for special terms.

FOR SALE, horse, used for 25 years on towpath work. Good condition, but rather short legs. Apply Box H1, The Trow.

WANTED URGENTLY, copy of "The Great Escape" Write Cell 874932X, HM Prison, Gloucester.

CABIN CRUISER for sale by retired yachtsman with reinforced bulwarks. Details from Box C1, The Trow.

CYNTHIA. Next week, usual time, middle of Sapperton Tunnel. How long can we go on meeting like this? Rodney.

SPEND CHRISTMAS at the Roundhouse Motel, Coates. Dining, dancing & digging. £75 per head, bring your own blankets. Entertainment by MUDD. Special attraction - topless dumper-drivers. Tel: Coates 1234567.

FULL-SIZED cardboard replicas of the Trust's Jones Crane, complete with working model of Treasurer operating same. For one of these unique Christmas presents send your name and address to The Trow on the back of a £10 note.



# Publicity

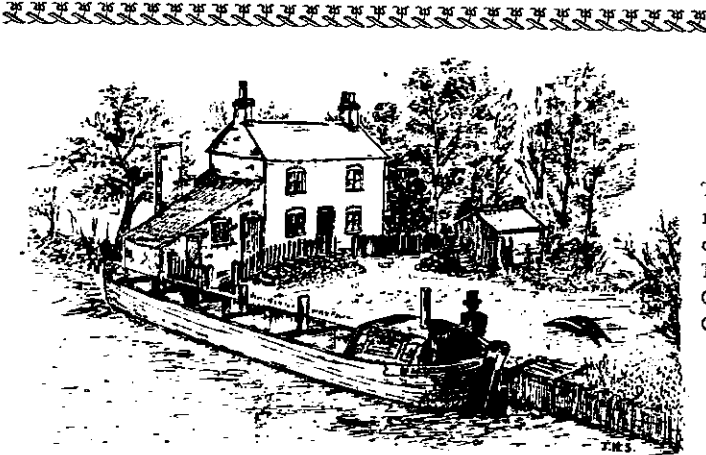
1975 saw the changeover of our organisation from Stroudwater Canal Society to the new Canal Trust. This changeover to a Charitable Trust has necessitated complete amendments to all our printed material, both for our own convenience and to comply with company rules. All this has proved quite expensive and has involved a lot of office work. New letterheads, new membership forms, posters, tickets, membership cards etc., plus many and various notes and reminder letters. Another side of the job has been the prospect of many displays and exhibitions demanding large display boards and advertising paraphernalia.

The near future with regard to displays and exhibitions looks healthy and is sure to be very busy. If you have a flair for doing posters or display boards we would be very glad to hear from you. We can supply the material if you can arrange it into a coherent display. On the display side we have the problem of up-to-date photographs of restoration progress. The preparation of our 1976 Calendar has shown us how sparse our collection of good photographs really is. Any offers of help in this direction would be much appreciated.

Now in the pipeline is our own book publication, called quite simply "Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal Trust Ltd." Written by Phil Holland, and produced by Trow Productions, we hope to have this book printed early in the new year. Please, however, do not write to us yet - we will advertise in the Press when the book is ready.

Acknowledgments of help must go to all those who have assisted to man stands at the various Summer Shows and to the printers who have produced our many printed items.

JOHN STEPHENS.



This is a reproduction of one of the Trusts own Christmas Cards.

'Pellie' at Eastington Wharf

# Fund Raising

Some 600 walkers - including 10 dogs - set off on a beautiful Sunday morning last May to walk from Stroud to Daneway and back on the Trust's Third Annual Sponsored Walk, covering 14 miles in all. A short report appeared in the June issue of "The Trow".

The sequel to this event took place in the Subscription Rooms, Stroud, on Friday 19th September when the winners of the nine sections received their awards. Our Chairman, Mike Ayland, thanked the winners for their efforts and an estimated 13,000 sponsors for their support. This year's event had netted well over £2000 already and money was still coming in.

Mr. Ayland also thanked the many people who had given valuable support to the event, notably Vivian Young Ltd of Brimscombe and Mr. M. Nolan for the loan of transport and fire extinguishers respectively, the Red Cross (Stroud Division), Mrs. York and staff of Whitbread's Canteen, the Daneway Inn, and the numerous canal-side landowners, particularly the Bathurst Estate.

The first award, the Waller Trophy, was presented by Mr. Goodfellow (the last Managing Director of George Waller's), who congratulated Katharine Lady Berkeley's School of Wotton-under-Edge on retaining the Senior School Shield for the second year running. This year the Junior School Shield changed hands by a very narrow margin, passing from Amberley (winners for the previous 2 years) to Sapperton C. of E. School.

The "Under 7 Years" Cup was again won by Stephen Beard of Amberley School, who also received a gift voucher. The "Under 12 Years" Cup was won by Stephen's sister, Sally Beard, who also received a voucher. Competition in this class was so intense that three other walkers - Robert Howitt, Timothy House and Mark Newport - each came within a few pence of winning the main award. In recognition of their efforts gift vouchers were awarded to each of them. The "Under 16 Years" Cup was won by Sarah Carpenter of Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. The Youth Club award was presented to Kingscote Youth Club and the Adult Award to Mr. Neil Rumbol of Essex.

A new class introduced this year, the Sponsored Dog, was very well supported and was won by "Tanner" owned by Miss Woodhead of Upton St. Leonards. The former received a box of Bonio and the latter a voucher. The Family Award, a £50 Voucher towards a waterway holiday negotiated with Boat Enquiries Ltd of Oxford, was won by the McMahon family of Nailsworth, who very generously asked for the Award to be raffled to raise additional funds for the Trust.

After the presentation, the evening continued with two films, one made by Trust Treasurer Bob Paget, entitled "Dragline" and the other a cartoon made by a member of the Cotswold Cine Club, who also showed the films. Coffee and light refreshments brought the evening to a close.

FORTHCOMING EVENT A Rummage Sale in aid of Trust funds will be held at Nailsworth Town Hall on Saturday 17th January 1976 at 2 p.m. We need volunteers to man the stalls and help generally, and contributions of jumble will be gratefully received. Please contact Audrey Rogerson at Amberley 2412 if you can help.

CHRISTMAS CARDS. A number of our popular packs of cards, suitable for Christmas or other occasions, are available again this year at 25p per pack of 8, made up of four different local canal scenes specially drawn by John Stephens. These are a work of art by themselves and, at this price, are proving very popular. Please contact Audrey Rogerson or Dave Elliott with your orders, and enclose 6½p extra for each set if applying by post.

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## Book Review

THE THAMES & SEVERN CANAL IN PICTURES by D.J.Viner.

The recent publication of a book of Thames & Severn Canal photographs by the Mendon Press of Yorkshire, from the work of David Viner, fills a long-standing gap in the published history of this remarkable canal. We all know so well the written history by Humphrey Household, and now we can see in pictures how the canal has progressed over the years. Printed on fine quality, glossy paper the pictures take on a quality that immediately brings one into the atmosphere of the working life of the waterway.

The cover picture carries a fine sepia-toned print of the Brimscombe Port as it was in 1826, and inside can be found a well-detailed plan of the Port and its surroundings. The centre page spread has a well drawn map of the complete canal system, showing clearly the relationship of the towns, locks and rivers. Three drawings of buildings - the Coates Tunnel facade, a lengthman's cottage at Coates and the Agent's House at Cirencester - are of great historical importance and would make excellent subjects for those interested in model making.

A large selection of the old canal photographs have been around now for a very long time and it is nice to see them at last brought together in this publication. David Viner is to be congratulated on this production as it will readily be seen that a lot of work has gone into collecting and collating these many pictures. The last picture in the book should not go without mention - a view of restoration work in progress at Bowbridge, with our dragline Empress 2 and Stanton's Bridge in the background.

A book full of interesting photographs for a mere £1.20 is a pleasure not to be passed over easily. If you have not yet seen a copy then you would be well advised to contact our Sales Department before they are all sold out.

J.H.S.



# Sales Section

A regular sales stand at Coates means that we can now stock a wider range of goods. Please note the following new items and revised prices. Where postage is not shown a contribution would be welcomed. (\* = new item)

- Thames & Severn Canal (Household) £4.50 each
- \* Thames & Severn in Pictures (Viner) £1.20 each
- \* Canal Barges & Narrow Boats 45p (+ 10p P.& P)
- \* Trow Lapel Badges 7p (+ 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p s.a.e)
- \* Gents Tie, navy blue with Trow motif £1.90 each
- Peter Powell Kites £3.99 each
- \* Trow Car Stickers 15p (+ 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p s.a.e)
- \* Wilts & Berks Canal (Dalby) £1.05 each

Stamps. Mrs. Jackie Andrews has volunteered to take over our Green Shield and Co-op. Stamp collecting. Please note this is not to compete with Waterways Recovery Group collecting. Send your stamps to Mrs. J. Andrews, 6 The Masons, Purton, Wilts.

Appeal Secretary. Mr. Neil Rumbol has taken on this important task and already has the bit between his teeth. Enclosed with this issue of the "Trow" is his first appeal leaflet, which is also being distributed in various Waterways magazines and other publications.

Sponsored Walk Gross receipts are nearing £2200 but many have yet to send in their money. Please save us the time and expense of chasing the small but valuable amount outstanding by sending this money to the Treasurer as quickly as possible.

BOB PAGET & GRAHAM PEGLER

## COAL BY CANAL

Stroudwater Carriers have recommenced sales of coal and smokeless fuel from the canalside at Gloucester, Frampton, Purton and Sharpness, from the narrowboat COMET. The prices at the time of going to press are £1.40 per cwt. for coal and £2.20 per cwt. for smokeless fuel (Rexco).

If any member, or members, of the Trust can arrange a distribution centre, take orders and organise a collection service, a discount will be given on the above prices, in aid of Trust funds. For further information please contact Tony Jones on Stroud 2915.

Members (and non-members) are asked to support this venture and thus contribute towards keeping a traditional canal trade in being. Perhaps Bowbridge Wharf will be added to the selling sites in a year or two - rumour has it that Tony is experimenting with an ex-Army DUKW with a view to driving round the obstacles!

# Cirencester Group News

The main effort of the section has been concentrated over the past two months at Coates, where an official first spadeful was dug by the Earl Bathurst on 7th September. He was presented with an engraved stainless steel spade by Mike Ayland on behalf of the Trust, and he and his son Alexander started the work by loading the first barrowful from the canal below the eastern end of Sapperton Tunnel.

Since then the work has progressed very well indeed. A ramp has been constructed, first from car park to towpath, and then, with the aid of the Waterways Recovery Group, extended down into the canal bed. The towpath has been cleared and levelled from the tunnel to Tarlton Bridge. Clearance of the concrete-lined canal channel has bettered all predictions, and at the time of writing (mid-November) the estimated completion is within two weekends. The spoil is loaded into dumpers by a Smalley Mk.1 loaned by W.R.G., and carried up the ramps by the dumpers to be tipped in hollows around the Tunnel House property. We have three dumpers working, two anonymously donated, to be renamed Josey I & II, and received with many thanks. The Jones Crane, refurbished by Tom Robinson, has been used to salvage fallen stones of the portal, and the original classical pediment has been recovered.

Arrangements are under way to start the reconstruction of the portal, and once the canal bed is clear, work will start on pointing the stone sides, and repairing the concrete lining. Working parties will continue every weekend, starting 10 a.m., except for the weekend 27th-28th December. We will be starting the new year with a January 1st Working Party, so come along to have a look at least.

Thanks are due to the ladies who have manned (womanned?) the sales stand at the Tunnel House; they are doing a great job, especially now in the colder weather. We have also held a stand in the Cirencester covered market. There are two vacant jobs on the Committee; Fund Raising and Social Organiser. If you are interested please contact me or a committee member when you can. We would like to congratulate David Viner, committee member with interest on the historical and archival side, on his marriage to Linda Bunce. Maybe we will gain a committee member, not lose one!

From January the Noggin 'n' Natter moves around the country, visiting pubs along the length of the canal. The dates and places are as follows:-

January 20th.	The Gréyhound, Siddington.	Lounge Bar.
February 17th.	The Crown, Cerney Wick.	Lounge Bar.
March 16th.	The Vale Hotel, Cricklade.	The Bar.

all starting at 8.00 p.m., and there is plenty of time to find out where they are!

Finally, the committee wishes everyone a Happy Christmas, and an active New Year - see you on the 1st January.

PETE BOYCE



# Social Section

Noggin 'n' Natter moves to "The Swan" Due to the closure of the Union, the Noggin 'n' Natter evenings will now be held in the Swan Inn, Stroud. There is a very pleasant private room and we have been made very welcome by the Licencees, who have recently moved from the Union. The Swan is situated between the John Street Car Park (behind the Union) and the High Street. Noggin 'n' Natter nights are the first Tuesday in every month, so the next date is the 2nd of December.

Christmas Get-together. A similar event to last year's successful evening has been arranged for Wednesday 17th December at The Swan Inn, Stroud, from about 7.30 p.m. There will be a light buffet and folk music, all for 35p. Come along and get into the Christmas spirit!

Annual Dance The dance at Minchinhampton Youth Centre was enjoyed by the members and their friends who danced to a very good band. An excellent buffet was served, thanks to our lady helpers. However, with less than 60 people the costs greatly exceeded the income. In future we will not be able to run this sort of social activity for members unless far more of you want to support it. Please do let us know what sort of events you would like, since this year's activities (with the notable exception of the boat trip) have made losses due to poor attendances.

TONY BRADFORD.

## STROUD SEA CADETS.

"The Trow" recently paid a visit to the Headquarters of the Stroud Sea Cadet Force, which meets every Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m. at the T.S.S. "SEVERN" situated off the Bath Road, near Strachan's Mill.

The Commanding Officer, Lt. Cmdr. John Francis, told us that about 35 boys are at present learning the rudiments of navigation, seamanship, knots, first aid, etc. At the time of our visit a party were preparing to leave for a week at sea in the training brig "ROYALIST" and later a further party would be sailing in the Guided Missile Destroyer "DEVONSHIRE", with which the "SEVERN" has affiliations.

It was refreshing to see the keenness and efficiency with which the boys were carrying out their training, under the eagle eye of C.P.O. Tony Jones, who is of course one of our members and regular contributors. Boat training regularly takes place on the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal and in Gloucester Docks, and at one time of course, training was carried out on the Stroudwater Canal. Perhaps when parts (or all) of the canal are re-opened we shall see them back again.

The force is always interested in talking to boys who are keen to join them, and any of our young readers who are interested should go along one evening. Apart from anything else, you would gain much knowledge which would be useful when you join our working parties! We believe also that the old saying is still true - "All the nice girls love a sailor"

# Sales Section

THE THAMES & SEVERN CANAL by Humphrey Household.....	£4. 50
SAUL ADAM by John Poole.....	£3. 00
NARROWBOAT VENTURE by John Poole.....	£1. 00
OUR CANAL POPULATION by George Smith.....	£3. 00
CHELTENHAM'S ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK by Amina Chatwin.....	£1. 50
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NARROWBOAT by Tom Chaplin.....	£0. 50
CANAL BARGES AND NARROWBOATS by P.L. Smith.....	£0. 45
THE THAMES & SEVERN CANAL by David Viner (photographs).....	£1. 20
DISCOVERING CANALS by Leon Metcalfe & John Vince.....	£0. 40
DISCOVERING LOST CANALS by Ronald Russell.....	£0. 40
WILTS & BERKS CANAL by Dalby.....	£1. 05

## Other Sales Items

Glass Tankards,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint capacity in clear glass, engraved with the Trust emblem of the Trow. £2.50 each.

Thames & Severn Canal Maps: These are very useful maps giving details of water levels, locks and routes. Copied from an Original Survey map. Excellent for display mounting. 60p. each.

Medallions: Pottery copies in a variety of colours of the original canal tokens of 1795. Complete with leather neck band. 35p. each.

Greeting Cards: In sets of eight pictures in the form of folded cards for birthday or Christmas greetings. 25p per set.

Corinium Museum Guides: A leaflet giving a brief guide to the canal around Cirencester, produced by David Viner. 10p. each.

Ball Point Pens: Marked 'Link Thames/Severn Canal'. 5p. each

Car Window Emblems: The Trust Emblem produced in blue and white, 4"dia.15p.

Canal Toilet Keys: B.W.B. toilet keys for use on Waterway Sanitary Stations. For sale to current licence holders only. 25p. each.

Lapel Badges: 7p. each, plus s.a.e. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Car Stickers: 15p. each plus s.a.e. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Gents. Ties: Navy blue, with Trow motif. £1. 90.

Peter Powell Aerobatic Kites: £3. 99 each.

Trust Calendars for 1976: These fine calendars are produced A.4 size in blue and black depicting twelve views of restoration work on the Canal since 1972. 75p. each

Please add postage at 20p per order for any value under £5.  
Orders over £5 post free. Please make P.O./Cheque payable to:  
'Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal Trust Ltd'

Send your orders to:- Mr. G. Pegler, Bourne Nurseries,  
Churchill Road, Brimscombe, Stroud, Glos. Tel. Brimscombe 2397.

*A Merry Christmas  
and A Happy  
New Year  
To All Our Members*

## NOGGIN' and NATTER EVENINGS

### Stroud Area (FIRST TUESDAY)

AT THE 'SWAN INN', SWAN LANE, STROUD. 8-00 p.m.  
6th. Jan. 3rd Feb 2nd Mar 6th April

### Cirencester Area (THIRD TUESDAY) 8-00 p.m.

20th. Jan. 'THE GREYHOUND' at SIDDINGTON  
17th. Feb. 'THE VALE' at CRICKLADE  
16th. Mar.  
20th. April 'THE KINGS HEAD' at CIRENCESTER

