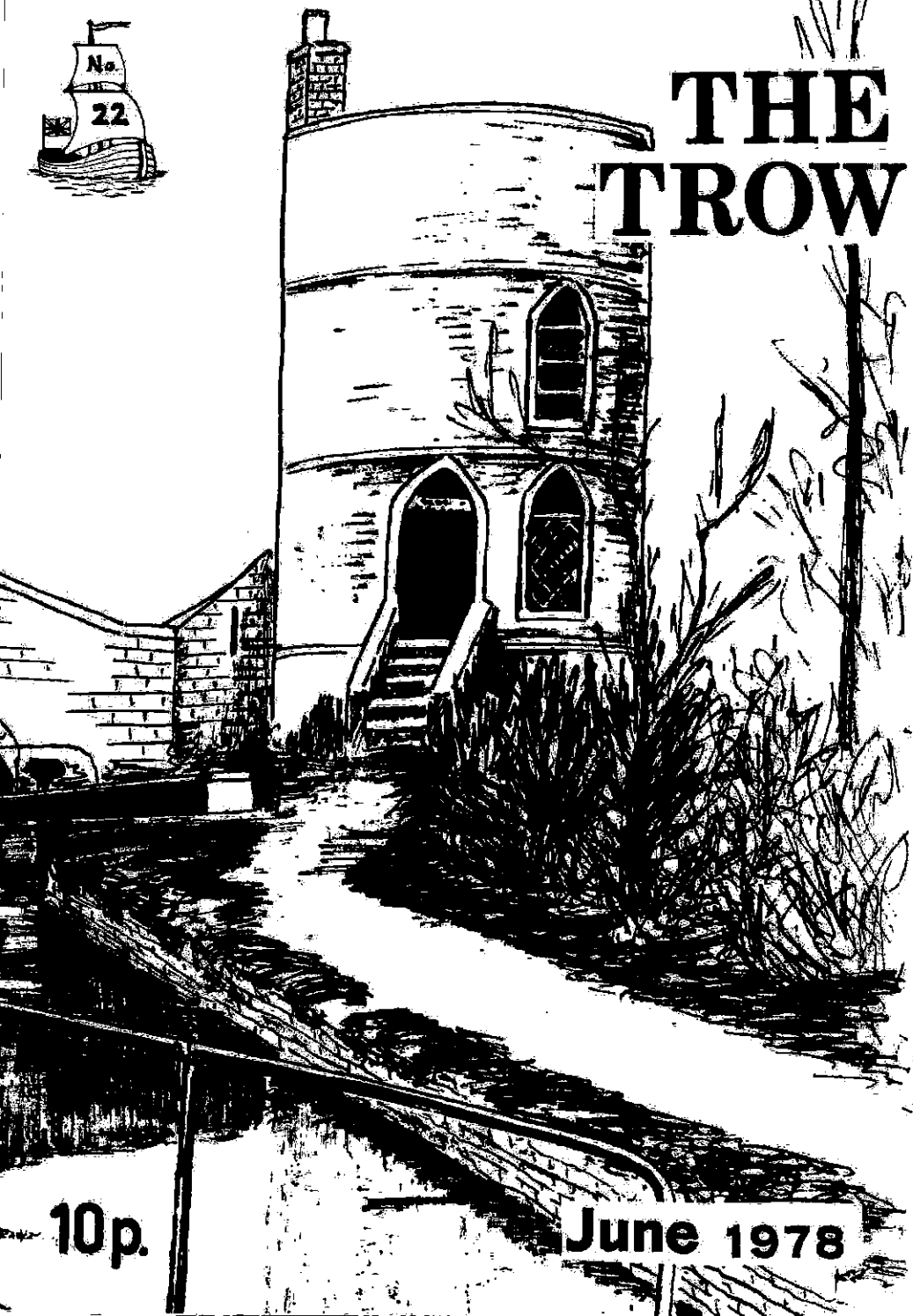




THE TROW



10p.

June 1978

THE TROW

The Official Magazine for members of
the Canal Trust.



No.22 June 1978

Editorial

Contributions have been pouring in over the last few weeks, which is very encouraging from all aspects - not least in that it cuts down the space which the over-worked Editor has to try and fill! The only drawback is that lack of space precludes every contribution being printed, but don't let this dishearten you - every effort will be made to include your letters and articles in future issues.

NOGGIN & NATTER'S The next three meetings will continue to be at The Victoria Hotel, Brimscombe, from 8 p.m., the dates being Tuesday 6th June, Tuesday 4th July and Tuesday 1st August. Members and non-members are equally welcome, and the beer (and food) can be recommended.

ADVERTISEMENTS Advertisements are beginning to increase and this might be a good time to remind readers of the charges for these. Personal sales and wants are 5p per word (Box numbers 25p extra). Block adverts are £2.50 quarter-page, £5 half-page and £10 full-page. A 10% discount will be given to all paid-up Trust Members. Please note all adverts must be prepaid to ensure inclusion.

NEXT ISSUE The closing date for contributions to the next 'Trow' is 10th August. Due to the holiday season this date will be strictly adhered to.

Trow Editor: Mr. R.O. Nott, Lynfield, Frome Park Road, Stroud, Glos.
GL5 3LF. (Tel: Stroud 3014)

STROUD / DUDERSTADT SOCIETY & STROUDWATER,
THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LTD

Viennese Evening

with the Stroud Light Music Choir
at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud
Friday, 9th June, 1978 at 7.30 p.m.

Wine and Sherry Bar

Tickets 75p. (Senior Citizens & Children under 14 - 50p)

Secretary's Report

This report is being written at 1 a.m., several days after the closing date of The Trow, following threats of bodily harm from the Trow Editor (my apologies, Ron!) However, to cut the hilarity and be truthful, this has resulted from the work load in the small group of active members of the Trust who are spread very thinly on the water, in fact, altogether I doubt if they would be crowded swimming in the first restored working lock on the canals. I am told that there are approximately six hundred individual memberships in the Trust. On a typical Sunday when I do my patrol of the Canal I may meet twelve workers, allowing for the odd two or three I don't see - I feel this highlights our malaise - lack of participation by YOU the membership. We have the framework to operate, but we are lacking both in workers and finances to make good our promise to reopen navigation between the Severn and Thames via the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals. Your response to the Council's appeals for assistance has been negligible; now if you are interested you have your chance to speak out - the Annual General Meeting is being held on Saturday 1st July 1978 at 2.45 p.m. in the Subscription Rooms, Stroud. There is ample car parking, bus and rail services, and if you happen to be on holiday you can make your voice heard by either writing to me to put your views forward or by appointing another member of the Trust as your proxy; but the best method is to attend in person. I hope to see you there.

Information

The Trust's policy of rationalizing its equipment has commenced with the purchase of a dumper and the sale of the ex BCM Longboat and a redundant dumper. Alan Jones and his faithful companions, who wonder if they are in quarantine as no-one visits them, are restoring the backlog of the Trust's machinery, particularly the mono rail which has stood forlorn for several years. Help of any sort is particularly needed here.

The Annual Sponsored Walk took place on 7th May with over five hundred walkers making their way from London Road Car Park, Stroud, to Daneway and back (fourteen miles). Our thanks to Audrey Rogerson, her willing band of helpers who worked long hours to make this event such a success, and to all the walkers who participated. (Incidentally, the odd couple marshalling at Whitehall Bridge were the Secretary and Treasurer, controlling both two and four legged walkers).

The Trust has been extremely fortunate in obtaining the services of the two most experienced historians of the Thames & Severn Canal - Humphrey Household and David Viner - to lecture to members and friends. Our sincere thanks to them for giving their time and revealing many little known facts about the Canals to over four hundred listeners.

A party from the Surrey and Hants. Canal Society (who are restoring the Basingstoke Canal) came down to Ham Mills, and not only did excellent physical work, but also gave both David Pillinger and Owen Carter much advice based on their hard won experience - Many thanks, Frank and Friends.

A reminder regarding Proxy Votes for the Annual General Meeting - whilst any one you may appoint as proxy has a moral obligation to vote as you instruct, there is no legal obligation for them to do so.

Passing Thought

If only the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals could be restored as easily as the Nailsworth Canal was built, all we would need would be a pen, a sheet of paper, a spare half hour, no funds and no civil engineering skills.

* * * * *



PUZZLE CORNER

- Is it:-
1. The Editor waiting for contributions from Council Members.
 2. The Treasurer awaiting his first £1,000,000 donation.
 3. Clive Drew from Banbury composing his longest poem yet?

Answers on a £10 note please. First prize - a week's holiday in Uganda. Second prize - two week's holiday in Uganda.

* * * * *

We have been asked to extend the Trust's grateful thanks to the following:-
The Retreat Garage, Whiteway, for donation of batteries for Trust funds.
Amey Roadstone Corporation M27 Contract 5 for donation of safety helmets.
Mr.W.Hawker and Mr.D.Parsons of Hawker's Bakery, Frampton-on-Severn for endless supply of paper sacks.

* * * * *

WANTED

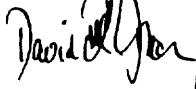
Rented accommodation by active Canal Trust member moving into area from N.W.London. The location should be within about 12 miles of Malmesbury, cooking facilities required but not meals. Please reply to Ken Burgin, 59 Cranbourne Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1JZ

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Third Annual General Meeting of the Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal Trust Limited to be held in The Ballroom, Stroud Subscription Rooms, at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday 1st July 1978.

The business to be transacted at the meeting shall be as follows:

1. To receive the Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting
2. To receive the Report of the Council
3. To receive the Accounts and the Auditors' Report
4. To fix the remuneration of the Auditors
5. To approve the payment of additional interest on Mr. Elliott's loan
6. To elect Members of the Council
7. Any Other Business



DAVID H. BOAKES, C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E.
SECRETARY
STROUDWATER, THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LTD.

NOTES

1. In accordance with para 42 of the Trust Articles of Association, the following members retire in rotation:
D. Pillinger, J. Willis, P. Holland, H. Rogerson
Mr. Holland and Mr. Rogerson have indicated that they do not wish to offer themselves for re-election.
2. Any member entitled to be present and to vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy, who must be a member of the Trust. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and shall be deposited at the Registered Office of the Trust, Riverside, Pridings, Saul, not less than 48 hours before the time of the Meeting.
3. Notice of intending proposals for membership of Council shall be given to the Secretary in writing not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting, together with agreement, in writing, of the person to be proposed. The address of the Secretary is 1 Riveredge, Framilode, Glos.
4. Proxy forms may be obtained from the Secretary on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.
5. Voting Rights. All classes of membership, except Junior membership, confer one vote. Junior Membership has no voting right since such members cannot be held liable under the Trust's guarantee.

STROUDWATER, THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LIMITED

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1978

The Council submit their Third Annual Report to the members of the Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal Trust Ltd.

The following have served as Council Members during the past financial year:

M. J. Ayland	
D. H. Boakes	resigned October 1977
P. Boyce	resigned October 1977
Mrs. P. Clutterbuck	
D. Elliott	
P. Holland	
A. Jones	
D. Pillinger	
M. R. Reynolds	
Mrs. A. Rogerson	
A. H. Rogerson	
J. H. Stephens	
J. Willis	co-opted November 1977

David H. Boakes was re-appointed Trust Secretary after the last Annual General Meeting, but is not a member of the Council.

The registered office of the Trust remains at Riverside, Priding, Saul, Gloucestershire.

In March local Stroud Estate Agent Mr. D. J. Bird, a vigorous supporter of the Trust, kindly consented to become one of our Vice-Presidents.

The principal activity of the Trust has continued to be the restoration of the Stroudwater and Thames and Severn Canals.

Work has continued in the Ham Mills area with further draglining and also a substantial start has been made on repairing Bagpath Bridge. The Council has prepared a detailed plan for the completion of the section from Griffins Mill Lock to Hope Mills lock, and this work will be gathering momentum over the next year with the assistance of our new Stroud Working Party Organiser, Owen Carter.

At Coates the restored tunnel portal was unveiled by the Right Hon. The Earl Bathurst, D.L., on 23rd July 1977 as the climax to our celebratory Canal Fair. Our stonemason Bruce Russell is this month (May 1978) putting the final touches to the pediment which will crown his fine achievement. Various tidying-up of the whole site continues and the major tasks remaining are repair of the brickwork of the stop plank grooves at the Roundhouse and a detailed study of water supply and retention.

Looking further to the future, the Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation have permitted us to start a detailed survey of their canal from Pike Bridge to the railway crossing at The Ocean in Stonehouse.

It gives us particular pleasure to report that Freeman Fox, Braine & Partners have consented to accept appointment as the Trust's engineering consultants on a formal continuing basis.

Two guided visits of inspection of the canals took place during the year by members of the Severn-Trent Water Authority's Land Drainage Committee.

Our balance sheet now shows a much healthier position and indeed most of the funds we have raised this year have been used to pay the creditors outstanding in March of last year and to finish Coates Portal.

Active steps have been taken during the last few months to bring all our plant into good working order. Another small dumper has been purchased and we will be taking steps to dispose of some redundant items.

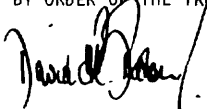
Notable fund raising events during the year have been the Annual Sponsored Walk, a major source of income, the Annual Exhibition and Sale of Art at Minchinhampton, and the Coates Canal Fair. We have also held several jumble sales and barbecues, but the market for waste paper has unfortunately continued to be fickle.

A regular feature on Sundays at Coates, at Trust events and at various shows and rallies during the Summer, has been our sales stand run by Trow Editor Ron Nott. The result has been a useful contribution to Trust funds and also a valuable point of contact and information between the Trust and members of the public.

Illustrated lectures by Humphrey Household in March and by David Viner in April this year proved popular with members and non-members. Several illustrated lectures have also been given during the year by Michael Ayland and John Stephens to various outside bodies, and this service is continuing.

One feature which gives cause for concern is that at a time when the Council are attempting to expand the Trust's activities on all fronts, so much of the work continues to fall on the shoulders of the same small band of active members. We urgently need more volunteers and if you can help us in any way please approach one of the Trust's officers at this Annual General Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUST COUNCIL



DAVID H. BOAKES
SECRETARY



MICHAEL R. REYNOLDS
TREASURER

Working Party Report

With the weather taking a turn for the better I am hoping for a rewarding Summer's working party at Ham Mill. Steady progress is being made on the repair of Bagpath Bridge in the form of re-bricking. At Ham Mill Lock a dam has been built to direct water into the Frome to enable work to commence in cleaning the chamber. However, the towpath paddle hole must be sealed before this can start. Once the lock chamber has been cleared work can commence on repair of the walls, so there is plenty to be done. Why not give me a ring or meet me on site, because without your help progress will be painfully slow. Working parties start at 10 a.m. on Sundays, and I can be contacted on Stroud 77170.


OWEN CARTER

Stroud Working Party Organiser.

Dates for your diary:- 25th June Landscaping at Coates - meet at Lister's at 9.45 a.m.

8th/9th July Away working party to the Basingstoke Canal - if you are interested let me know as soon as possible.

If anybody has any scaffolding they could loan the Trust, would they please contact me on Stroud 77170.



OLD COUNTRY MARKETS

at Monmouth, Agincourt Square on
Fridays and at Ross-on-Wye, Town Centre
on Thursdays & Saturdays
Mostly under cover and open throughout
the year from 8 am to 4 pm approx.

antiques, old coins, stamps, chinaware,
cigarette cards, books, brassware and
occasionally furniture, toys, general
oddments etc, materials, clothing, shoes,
household goods, confectionery, eggs and
dairy produce, flowers, plants, fruit and
vegetables and fresh fish.

STROUDWATER, THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LTD.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1978

<u>1977</u>		
1265	Membership Subscriptions	1387
501	Donations	2417
2128	Specific Donations to Coates Tunnel Portal	-
-	Donations to M.A.Crane (deceased) Memorial Fund	16
2647	Proceeds of Fund Raising	2934
202	Interest Received	10
<u>6743</u>		<u>6764</u>
	<u>DEDUCT</u>	
413	'Trow' Magazine printing and distribution	391
509	Postages and Stationery	377
115	Rents and Insurances	168
103	Audit Fee	76
250	Legal Expenses	-
244	Motor Lorry Expenses	262
	Working party materials and expenses (including plant maintenance)	574
1391	Professional Survey of Thames-Severn Link	-
2068	Expenditure on Coates Tunnel Portal	2025
3612	Expenditure on Workshop	188
126	Interest paid (D. Elliott)	89
-	Job Creation Scheme Expenditure	-
16392	Less Income from Manpower Services Commission	-
(16008)	Depreciation of Fixed Assets	1335
-		<u>5485</u>
<u>9215</u>		<u>5485</u>
(£2472)	Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>£1279</u>
	Appropriated to:	
988	General Fund	1263
1484	Coates Tunnel Portal Fund	-
-	M.A.Crane (deceased) Memorial Fund	16
(£2472)		<u>£1279</u>
	<u>NOTES</u>	
1.	FIXED ASSETS: The position relating to the purchase of the dredger during the previous year has now been resolved and the Council has therefore decided to resume the Trust's former accounting practice of fully depreciating plant and machinery during the year of purchase.	
2.	The liability of members is limited by guarantee - such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1 per member.	

STROUDWATER, THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LTD.

BALANCE SHEET 31st MARCH 1978

1977	<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
	<u>Machinery and Equipment</u>		
	At cost to 31st March 1977	1702	
	Additions during year at cost	150	
		<hr/>	
		1852	
	LESS: Accumulated depreciation	1852	
		<hr/>	
1200			-
	<u>Current Assets</u>		
1377	Cash at Bank - Current Accounts	1384	
6	- Deposit Accounts	15	
6	Cash in Hand	59	
48	Sundry Debtors and Payments in Advance	-	
1036	Stocks at cost	1104	
		<hr/>	
2473		2562	
	LESS; Current Liabilities		
2549	Sundry Creditors	159	
		<hr/>	
(76)			2403
<u>£1124</u>	<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>£2403</u>
	<u>Represented By</u>		
	<u>General Fund</u>		
	Balance 31st March 1977	603	
	ADD Transfer of Coates Tunnel Portal Fund	521	
	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	1263	
		<hr/>	
603			2387
	<u>Coates Tunnel Portal Fund</u>		
	Balance 31st March 1977	521	
	LESS Transfer to General Fund	521	
		<hr/>	
521			-
	<u>M.A.Crane (deceased) Memorial Fund</u>		
	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	16	
		<hr/>	
<u>£1124</u>			<u>£2403</u>

DAVID H. BOAKES - SECRETARY

MICHAEL R. REYNOLDS - TREASURER

Report of the Auditors to the Members of the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust Ltd.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account. The said Accounts, in our opinion, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust at 31st March 1978 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date and comply with the Companies Acts 1948 to 1976.

51 LONDON ROAD
STROUD, GLOS.
12th May 1978

A. G. SLINGSBY & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Riverside Barbecue

on the banks of the River Severn
at

RIVERSIDE, PRIDING, SAUL

on

SATURDAY 22nd JULY

from 5 o'clock

o-----o-----o-----o-----o-----o
| FOLK SINGING BY SYLLABUB |
o-----o-----o-----o-----o-----o

Menu

Hot Soup
Chicken Drumstick
Frankfurter Sausages
Chinese Spareribs
Barbecue Sauce
Bread Roll

o-----o

Black Forest Cherry Gateau
(with fresh cream and sherry)

o-----o

Cider, home-made Beer and
Wine for the Ladies

o-----o

TICKETS £2 to include food, drink and
entertainment
available from:-

Mike Aylard (Saul 385)

or

Audrey Rogerson (Amberley 2412)

* * * * *

Trust member Michael Handford informs us that he is leading a walk for the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology on Sunday 24th September 1978 which might interest members and which they are welcome to join. It will leave from Framilode Church at 2 p.m. and cover a 3-mile walk up the old line of the Kennett Canal. This Canal was built between 1759-63, and running from Framilode to Stonehouse, is one of the two canals constructed up the valley of the Frome before the Stroudwater Canal was successfully opened in 1779. The Kennett Canal is thought to be unique since it is the only known canal built entirely with cranes instead of locks to effect the change in level and the first known recorded use of container traffic on inland waterways. This eccentric canal operated for only 4 years before it was abandoned as a disastrous failure.

Michael also tells us that the world's oldest surviving canal company (formed in 1730) made a profit of £1438 last year - better than any DWD canal!

COATES WORKING PARTY REPORT

By the time you read this report Bruce Russell hopes to have completed the remaining masonry work on the portal facade. It will then call for a major effort by volunteers to re-profile the surround above to do justice to the scene.

This work is to include the grassing of the mound and the reconstruction of the dry stone wall surround, to deter a too-enthusiastic approach to the edge. The completion of these tasks combined with the continuing terracing and walling down below will, I feel, give the Trust something to be justly proud of in this part of the world. It follows that your efforts at the Site will be much in demand, so that we can finish the job with a flourish, and will then all be able to stand around and photograph it.

I hope that both Trust members and the general public will come in increasing numbers, not least of course to visit our Sunday Sales Stand!

The Bathurst Estate is kindly allowing the Trust to continue its work beyond the end of the current Licence in view of the fact that maintenance and 'policing' will be required for the foreseeable future.

It is intended to mount a joint effort with the Stroud workforce on June 25th to re-profile the working area at one attempt and any 'spare' hands will be appreciated.

Official working parties are planned for June 4th, 18th and 25th, and thereafter on the second Sunday in the month, e.g. July 9th, August 13th. Additional parties will be organised as volunteers and jobs demand. In all cases it will make life considerably easier if recruits will contact either the Trust Secretary or myself in advance so that the best use can be made of our efforts.

DAVE PILLINGER
8 Churchward Avenue,
Swindon. Tel: 32524

Footnote:- Visit to Ironbridge Gorge Museum in June - see below.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THIS FASCINATING SITE OF PRESERVATION
AND RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE

ADULTS - £3.00 (INCLUDES ENTRY TO ALL MUSEUM SITES)
COST: CHILDREN - £2.50

IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO BRING A PICNIC LUNCH

	<u>SWINDON</u>	<u>CIRENCESTER</u>	<u>STROUD</u>
COLLECTION POINTS:	8.30 AM	9.00 AM	9.30 AM
RETURN APPROX.:	8.00 PM	7.30 AM	7.00 AM

PLEASE STATE CHOICE OF COLLECTION POINT

BOOKING REQUESTS WITH PAYMENT AND S.A.E. PLEASE TO:-

DAVE PILLINGER, 8 CHURCHWARD AVENUE, SWINDON, WILTS.
TEL: 32524

Membership Report

Would you like to be the proud owner of a beautiful pottery plate specially commissioned by the Trust from Don Mann? Ten of these unique plates are to be presented to the first 10 members who each in turn enrol 10 new members to the Trust by 31st December 1978. Membership must reach 1000 by the end of this year and we need you all to make every effort to bring this about. Sad to say, membership has dropped over the last year because some members have not renewed their subscriptions, and we now need around 300 new members to reach our target. Please try to enrol not only your own family but your relations, friends and neighbours. To obtain your trophy simply put your name at the top of each membership form which you give to a prospective member. A form will be found in your Trow, and more can be obtained from me at the address below. All forms received on which you have written your name will be carefully filed and the winning members will receive their trophies at the end of the year.

Please tell your friends and neighbours of all we have done already. For instance, Coates Tunnel Portal restored, Bowbridge pound cleared and open for use, restoration work now progressing at Griffins Mill and Ham Mill lock and pound. We urgently need your support and we need sufficient money to enable us to carry on this restoration work. Practical help is always more than welcome - general labouring, plant maintenance, fund raising, catering, helping to organise social events etc. Please start enrolling now. Keep our environment free from pollution by helping to keep our Canals clean and navigable. It is a very worthwhile job.

Canalagrams - Winner and Solution The winner of the March Canalagrams Competition was Mr A. Wadley of Keynsham. Mr Wadley has received his prize which was a signed copy of the book 'Saul Adam' by John Poole.

Solution:- 1. Thames & Severn. 2. Daneway. 3. The Grand Union.

4. Anderton Lift. 5. Waterways World. 6. Huddersfield Narrow.

7. Narrow Boat. 8. Lengthmans Cottages. Book - Saul Adam.

WANTED Has anyone odd balls of double knitting wool to spare? Large or small amount in any colour would be most welcome for use in making a crochet bedspread to be sold in aid of Trust funds. Please send any wool that you can spare to me at the address below or give to any Trust Council member to pass on to me. Wool may also be handed to Ron Nott on our Sales Stand at Coates, or elsewhere. Thankyou.

MRS.P.CLUTTERBUCK.
Acre Mead, Ryalls Lane,
Cambridge, Glos.
GL2 7AT.



Fund Raising

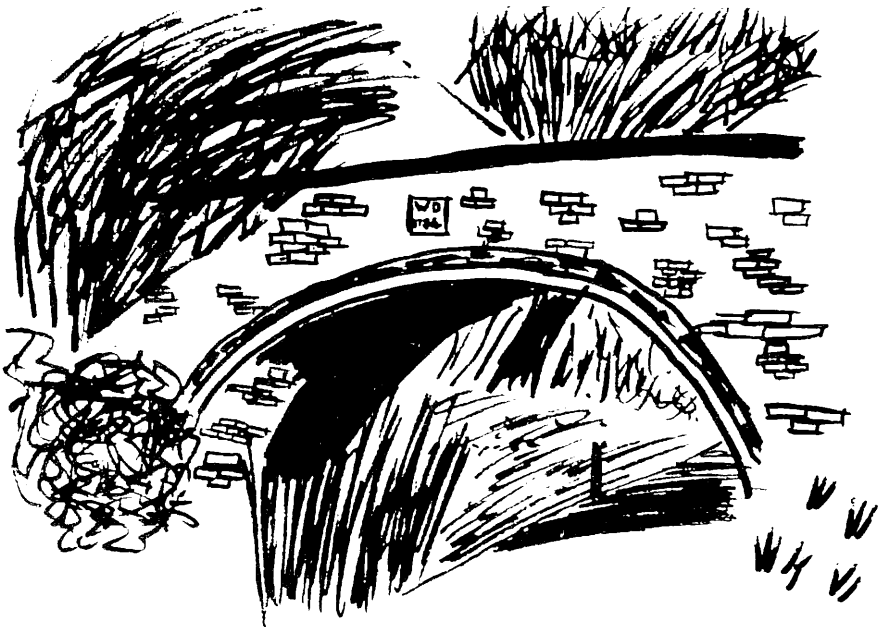
Raffle prizes are always required for our various functions, and any donation would be very gratefully received. Please contact Audrey Rogerson, Lane Cottage, Amberley, Stroud (Tel: Amberley 2412).

A BARN DANCE is to be held at Cirencester on Friday 6th October. Music is by the Cotswold Travellers Folk Dance Band and the Caller is Lionel Parkhouse. Ploughman's Suppers and a Licensed Bar will be available. Further details and tickets at £1.75 each from Mrs. Joyce Griffiths, 10 Smyth House, The Waterloo, Cirencester (Tel: Cirencester 4160). Cheque and s.a.e. please. BEGINNERS WELCOME.

A Trust Booklet is now available containing:-

- * A Brief History of the Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canals.
- * An Enthusiast's Guide to the Canals Today.
- * Details of the Trust's Organisation, its Aims and Objectives.

Obtainable from Ron Nott, Lynfield, Frome Park Road, Stroud, Glos., price 25p plus 9p postage.



WHITE HALL BRIDGE by Lorraine Drew. Aged 11.

Readers' Letters

Dear Editor,

I was interested in the article on 'The Nailsworth Canal' in the last issue of the Trow.

However, your correspondent neglected to mention the dreadful curse associated with that canal. According to legend, all those who ever see it are already suffering from water on the brain.

Yours sincerely,

Studio Flat, 52 Park St.,
Bristol BS1 5JN

Michael Handford.

* * * * *

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the suggestion contained in a letter from Mr. K.Burgin in the last Trow, that working parties must soon start at the Inglesham end of the S.T.& S.

Without wishing to detract from the achievements of the Trust to date, or from the efforts of Trust members and others, I believe the time has come when, in the interest of the restoration scheme's credibility, it is vital that we be seen to be making a part of the canal navigable again and that the restored section be one that will immediately be viable and used. Doubtless there are various problems, but they have to be faced at some time and are probably not so difficult to solve as others elsewhere on the canal.

It is, of course, much easier to talk about doing something than to actually do it, but I shall be pleased to go on record as being prepared to help open up the eastern end of the canal in any way I can. I hope the Trust will see fit to open up this new front in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

Jocose, Thrupp,
Nr.Oxford.

John W.Cook

* * * * *

Dear Sir,

I would like to endorse Ken Burgin's letter in the last Trow, highlighting the fact that the easiest section of the route to be restored would be the first 4 miles through to Kempsford. Although technically simple, it has complex political and administrative problems which I am not prepared to go into here, but once Council has solved all of these successfully I can take off my Council hat and work accordingly - to re-gate Inglesham Lock and clear and dredge through to Dudgrove Double Lock, fitting new gates and a new bridge downstream of the lock to give access across the canal (below the lock gives more head-room than on the site of the present crossing). Above the lock and the new private arm across to Dudgrove Farm, the main line requires dredging through to Kempsford, making sure to pick up the Fairford feeders. One problem in

(Letters - continued)

this section is that the drainage of the surrounding land requires careful attention and at least 3 syphons beneath the canal.

At Kempsford the road will have to be crossed with a new bridge and a short cut into the Thames, which is where Phase II of the incredible plan comes into being as the river would have to be levelled with the canal at this point - remember the canal has risen 6m. above Inglesham so two locks are needed on the river to compensate this and ideally should be placed above Inglesham and the second off Hannington. This gives an attractive 9 mile cruising ring at the head of the Thames. If traffic was too heavy a gyratory system would have to be worked but this would waste water.

I must emphasise, as a Council member, that these views are mine and mine alone and are not even expressed in Council. They are just one solution to a very desirable project to decrease the gap between Father Thames and Madam Sabrina.

Yours sincerely,

Riverside, Priding,
Saul, Glos.

Michael J. Ayland

* * * * *

Dear Sir,

30th Feb. 1978

It has been brought to our notice that our good names are being bandied about in your Trow Magazine and, as a result, we are continually being asked why we are appearing in various public houses in the Stroud/Cirencester area. This situation must cease forthwith, if not sooner, otherwise we shall take action to put our foot down with a firm hand.

Yours faithfully,

'Noggin & Natter'
Superior Undertakers,
Woodencote, Screwham Down,
Bury, Lancs.

Herbert Noggin
Albert Natter

* * * * *

Dear Sir,

31st Feb. 1978

Further to our letter of 30th February, we are prepared to overlook the matter of your taking our names in vain if you will publicise in the Trow the following item designed with members of the Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal Trust in mind.

We proudly present the BOATACOFFIN, a mahogany coffin 72ft long by 2ft wide which instantly converts to a traditional type canal narrow boat. The BOATACOFFIN comes complete with transom to accommodate an outboard motor. We strongly recommend that the outboard motor be removed prior to interment. This was not done with one of our earlier models and the BOATACOFFIN suddenly took off in the middle of the burial service, with the vicar and bearers in hot pursuit. It was eventually recovered from the Oxford Canal. In addition to being late in meeting his Maker, the deceased was also fined for not having a current B.W.B.licence.

(Letters - continued)

The BOATACOFFIN has 24 carrying handles, or at extra cost we can supply boatmens' traditional brass knobs. Painted roses and castles are also optional extras.

A common query concerning our product is that 72ft into a hearse will not go. When the BOATACOFFIN is required for the final journey, simply hire two hearses back to back or one articulated lorry. Another query concerns the expense (and chaos) in purchasing a cemetery plot 72ft long. Simply arrange for a small rectangular hole slightly over 72ft deep to be dug, allowing the BOATACOFFIN to be put in vertically. As the BOATACOFFIN holds up to a dozen prone passengers, costs can be defrayed between several families, hence our mottoes 'A BOATACOFFIN TAKES A LOT - SAVE ENERGY AND SHARE A PLOT' and 'WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR THE BIER'.

Prices are on application. Large discounts are available to Trust members already dead from the neck up. Mr. Drew from Banbury is giving this offer very serious consideration.

We remain, Your humble servants,
'NOGGIN & NATTER'
Superior Undertakers.

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I was delighted to be invited recently by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust to inspect the nearly completed section at Limpley Stoke between Bradford-on-Avon and Bath. Delighted because the scheme is so far advanced in bringing another town onto the waterway system and another large section of the K&A restored so professionally. The canal over a 2-mile section was very similar to large sections of the T & S, with rising invert where water and air pressure beneath the puddle would blow the clay as 'high as a house'. As soon as the water table dropped slightly the hole in the bottom then rapidly drained the canal. So bad was the problem at Limpley Stoke that it had to be repaired almost annually and for most of its life the Claverton pump just recycled water that sped out of the bed into the Avon to be pumped back into the canal. With modern techniques the whole of the bed was cleared of trees and undergrowth with a Hymac before a Terram/stone floor was laid followed by a layer of small stones with a polythene membrane on top. Above this was placed a protective layer of concrete. Two sloping concrete side cheeks were then laid before constructing magnificently decorative Bath stone walls along both banks. To overcome the problem of 'blowing' beneath the bed, vent holes were inserted every 10m. taking the water up the sides of the canal to the top. Seeing the nearly completed canal in this wooded valley I thought how well it would fit into the summit of the T & S. All the sceptics who have jibed that 'you will never hold water in your canal' should be hastily dispatched to Limpley Stoke, for here a leaking overgrown derelict canal as bad as parts of the T & S, often its line difficult to define, has been transformed into a modern waterway which I am certain will last another 200 years. Fortunately the K & A Trust has had the blessing of the Wiltshire County Council and the B.W.B., whom together with the Manpower Services Commission have spent £85000 building 2 miles of canal from scratch over the worst terrain there is. There are NO easy canals in Britain left to restore today but when difficulties such as those at Avoncliff can be overcome so professionally there are few derelict canals which cannot be guaranteed a future.

Sales Section

Items available from Mr. G. Pegler, Bourne Nurseries, Churchill Road, Brimscombe, Stroud, Glos. (Telephone Brimscombe 2397). Please add postage at 20p per order for any value under £5. Orders over £5 post free. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to 'Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal Trust Ltd'

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The Official Magazine for members of the Canal Trust.

