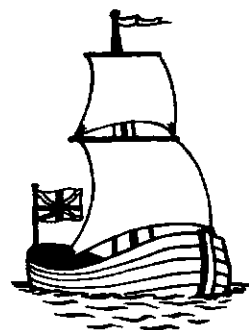
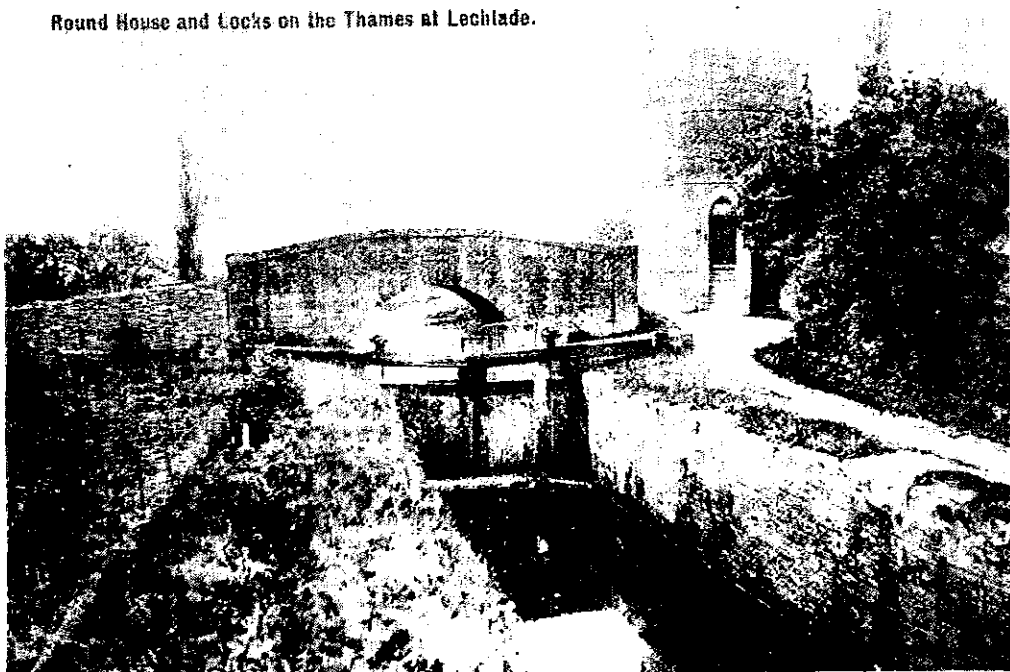


THE TROW



The Official Magazine for members of
the Canal Trust.

Round House and Locks on the Thames at Lechlade.



*Stroudwater, Thames & Severn
Canal Trust Limited*

20p

Number 36

December 1981

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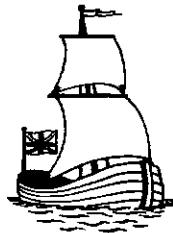
COPY DATES - for March issue - 10th February;
June issue - 10th May;
September issue - 10th August;
December issue - 10th November.

Front Cover Illustration: One of a set of eight
Reproduction 1900's Canal Postcards available from
Framilode Productions, 1 Riveredge, Framilode, Glos.
for £1.00 including postage and packing.
This one shows the Round House and Lock at the
junction of the Thames and Severn Canal with the
River Thames at Inglesham.

Rear Cover Illustration: The bronze plaque unveiled
in November at Tandebigge Wharf by George Tooley of
Tooley's Boatyard, Banbury. The late Robert Aickman
was, of course, a Vice-President of this Trust.

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No. 36

December 1981.

EDITORIAL

Quite how you can have an editorial (or even a 'Trow' issue) without an editor it is difficult to see, but here it is all the same.

What has been most noticeable as a result of the prolonged illness of David Boakes and the departure of Ron Nott from the editorial hot seat is that a great number of small, unnoticed tasks, the province of neither of these gentlemen one would have thought, have quietly stopped being done.

Elsewhere in this issue, we have outlined some of the unseen tasks which have been undertaken recently - all very necessary, very exacting and very time-consuming for those involved. There are a number of other matters of equal gravity in progress at the moment, and it seems, at least to our eyes, that there is only around a dozen Trust members carrying on this and most other vital work.

So, contrary to the opinions of those members and non-members, near and far, who repeatedly criticize what they see as the lack of progress 'in the field', we find ourselves continually amazed at just how much is being done and how thoroughly.

It is difficult, too, to understand those local councillors and officials who, having in many cases made no effort to find out the facts for themselves, persist in their beliefs that Trust activities are detrimental to local affairs generally, have no support from the local community at large, and are perpetuated by the same few eccentrics and troublemakers; that we are not serious and that, in any case, we cannot possibly support the necessary commitment to begin to carry our aims through.

How much better, they seem to be saying, it would be if these people would only go away and let us fill-in the canal. Anyone will tell you, they say, that what the majority of people who live in the Golden Valley really want is a fast new road from Chalford to the motorway, near to their homes and across their school fields and public open spaces. They most certainly do not, we are told, want a canal.

They do not want a restored canal? A canal peaceful to walk or sit beside, to boat on, to fish in or to draw tourists who would add to the trade generated in the valley? Of course, we might have a totally false impression. Remember how our councillors and officers told us that we all wanted the Stroud Ring Road? And did we? Perhaps they were just testing us then. What about now?

Or then again, we might be wrong about the seriousness of 55 tonnes tare of heavy dredging equipment obtained and refurbished at a cost to the Trust in excess of £20,000 and now worth around £55,000 in replacement value. We might be wrong about the commitment shown by Trust officers, members, local (and not so local) supporters and donors, national campaigns and commercial undertakings who have assisted in various ways in the raising of the £60,000 + spent on plant, materials and services for the restoration since the inception of the old Stroudwater Canal Society ten years ago. This figure is available through the Trust's accounts - it is audited in accordance with the Companies Acts (the Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee) and it does not include the value of volunteer labour.

We hear the same local councillors and officials applaud sport, drama, art and the other fashionable pastimes. They approve public funding, often on a large scale, for facilities for these. Now, we do not begrudge those who enjoy them such facilities or the finance for them, but how does a boater, a rambler, a fisherman, a wildlife observer or even a casual evening stroller benefit from sport, drama or art? Are we to be permitted the right to indulge in politically acceptable pursuits only?

It is worth noting that this Trust, with only a very few exceptions, has never enjoyed public funding. We would not shun it, of course, but we do not complain about the lack of it. What we really would like is to be considered and consulted in a civilized way on matters which govern or affect our chosen leisure activity and our own hard-won funding. If we can raise the money, as we have, for what at times does seem like a lost cause, then how much more successful we could be if we had the approval and moral support of our community leaders. Why, we might even help finance the East/West Bypass - provided we can keep the canal.

But the most significant points in our favour, we submit are - (i) that there are no running losses to be borne by local rates or central taxes and (ii) that many of the advantages of the restored canals would be available to local inhabitants and visitors at no charge. Where is the leisure centre or theatre with these qualities?

There are some innovations in this issue of 'The Trow', and we hope you like them. Of course, with no editor and production in the hands of the famed dozen or so, it might be difficult to make further improvements. However, we have made a serious effort to tell you, the membership, what we are doing.

Do think hard about the vacancies shown in the new Information Section - perhaps YOU, the new editorial team, could tell YOU, the membership, what YOU, the new workforce, have done, next time.

And do have a very good Christmas.

ANON (Choice of about twelve).

CONTRIBUTIONS and LETTERS are invited for inclusion in the 'Trow'. They should be submitted, preferably typewritten, double-spaced on one side of the paper only. Please be reasonably brief. We reserve the right to alter or shorten letters and articles where necessary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

EAST-WEST BYPASS May I firstly thank all those members who took the time and effort to write to Mr. Cypher regarding this matter. Unfortunately, the Working Party Sub-Committee, comprising District Councillors Hill, Hinds, Oakes, Ponting, Rutter and Williams, completely disregarded the results of the much vaunted and costly Public Relations Exercise (6% in favour of infilling the Canal to 94% against Route A, 16% in favour of partially infilling the Canal to 84% against Route B), and strongly recommended that the Planning and Development Committee should accept Route A. This proposal was carried, despite an overwhelming vote from the Leisure & Amenity Committee for a motion that the Canals in the area should not be infilled for the proposed road schemes or any development. It would appear that in order to save an alleged sum of £600,000, which the County Surveyor, despite requests, will not quantify, the whole Thames/Severn Link may well be irrevocably broken and the justification for any restoration and funding between Wallbridge and South Cerney lose its credibility and national interest, with the subsequent loss of future income and employment from restoration and recreational use to both Stroud and Cotswold District Council areas.

Where do we go from here? The Trust is investigating both the alleged costing and alternative road routes in this area, but also ASKS THE MEMBERSHIP TO PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST TERMS TO THEIR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NATIONALLY about this total disregard of sought-after Public Opinion, with a copy to their County Councillor if living in Gloucestershire or Wiltshire.

GRAND BAZAAR A highly successful Bazaar was held at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on 7th November, which it is hoped will become at least an Annual, if not six-monthly, event, both to raise funds and also bring the Trust into the Public Eye. Having now proved the concept we are looking for volunteers to carry on for the future. If you feel that this is your forte instead of cutting trees, dredging and other open air activities, please contact Margaret Boakes on Gloucester 740525 for full details. Advice, finance and assistance will be provided as needed. The results of the Bazaar Draw were:

Glasses	- Jon Willis	Christmas Crackers	- Ernest Carrington
Sherry	- Jackie Clarke	Tin of Biscuits	- Mrs. Clease
		Chocolates	- Mrs. Baynes

STROUDWATER
SPONSORED WALK Approximately 100 members and friends walked from Wallbridge to Pike Lock and back on 12th October to see the progress made by the Trust on the Stroudwater. Alan Jones had his team dredging and painting barges at Ryeford, whilst the ladies were providing welcome food and drink in the partly completed Plant Depot at Eastington. Once more the weather was kind to the walkers, and the sponsorship will aid continued work on the Canals. Our sincere thanks for all those involved, both in walking and support activities.

SHELL AWARDS The Trust recently submitted several entries to the 1981 Shell/IWA Award Scheme, and Jon Willis and I had the pleasure of attending the award presentation held on 19th November on the SS "Great Britain" where we received £600 on behalf of the Trust, the highest sum we have ever received from this source. Our appreciation to those whose efforts on the Canals resulted in the Award, and also to Shell and the Inland Waterways Association for their interest in our project.

PLANT PURCHASES

The Trust has purchased and taken delivery from Wessex Water Authority of a tug 24 ft. long x 8 ft. wide and powered by a 36 HP Lister Diesel Engine. The beast, which is presently adjacent to the Wycliffe Boathouse at Stonehouse, is in urgent need of cleaning out and some restoration, having been vandalised. Alan Jones (telephone Stroud 78656) is looking for volunteers to work on this project immediately, as it is urgently required to move the barges during the Ryeford Dredging Operation. Anyone interested will be given full assistance on a short time project requiring varying degrees of skill. Ideally suited to a car enthusiast.

ADOPT-A-LOCK

Now the Plant Compound and Workshop have been completed with panache, including a skilled logo by Ernest Garrington, it has been suggested that the adjacent Blunder Lock be restored to working order to complete the site. Jon Willis (tel. Gloucester 416694) is looking for a team of, say four to eight persons, who would specialise in the restoration of this site (to include working lock gates) in order that when the Ryeford dredging is completed the adjacent pounds can be dredged, and a trip boat operated between Pike and Newtown Locks could then become a reality, and provide both much needed finance and publicity for our programmes.

WORKING PARTIES

Please note the dates of working parties published in this Trow, and have at least one day on the Canals in the next three months. The Trust provides the equipment and the Working Party Organisers useful jobs for all varieties of ability; overnight accomodation can be arranged if required. Groups (Scouts, Schools, Youth Clubs, etc.) are especially welcome and will be adequately supervised by Trust Organisers. If you are interested to come and meet your fellow enthusiasts, contact the relevant Working Party Organiser who will advise you of the meeting site.


DAVID H BOAKES

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

As the end of 1981 approaches, it may appear to some members not involved with our regular activities that another year has passed without any great significance for the restoration project. Much however is happening behind the scenes, in addition to the East-West Bypass problem, which will have a dramatic effect on the Trust's fortunes sooner rather than later as the ideas are brought to fruition. The present Trust Council certainly has the confidence to take us forward: history alone will tell us whether or not we succeed.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers seasonal greetings and a successful waterway-orientated New Year.

Winter Work Camp 1981

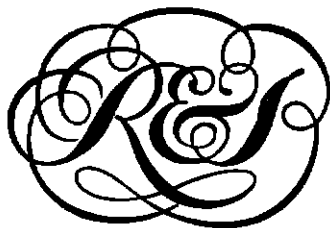
As last year, a number of our intrepid regular visitors have volunteered their services. Further clearance and preparation work is scheduled for the Daneway

tunnel entrance area and anybody interested in coming along will be very welcome, even if just for a few hours. The event will run from December 26th until Jan. 1st. Accommodation is available for those wishing to stay overnight but prior notice would be appreciated in order to organise the catering department. For fuller details, see the Diary Dates.

Sixth Trust Annual General Meeting

The Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Trust was held at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud, on Saturday 26th September 1981, following the presentation of the 1981 Sponsored Walk Awards and Trust Draw.

The meeting was brought up-to-date on the current position of the Trust and in



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particular on the problems posed by the planned Stroud East-West Bypass. A comprehensive and lively discussion from the floor led to a resolution being passed that 'This Trust supports the principal of an East-West Bypass for Stroud and looks forward to working with local authorities and other bodies towards the selection of any route which does not adversely affect the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals'.

Messrs. Burgin, Pillinger and Veevers were re-elected to the Trust Council and Mr. David Lewis was formally elected, having been co-opted for the previous few months.

The meeting closed after approximately 2 hours.

D. Pillinger.

Editor's Note - Mr. Pillinger omitted to report that the Treasurer to the Trust, M.R. Reynolds, presented his report, with detailed explanation.

And that mention was made that the Trust Secretary, David Boakes, was unable to attend as he was indisposed. Expressions of sympathy and good wishes for his speedy recovery were received from the meeting.



The ex Grand Union Buttyboat 'Bodmin' is moored as a camping boat in the beautiful Limpley Stoke Valley at Bathampton on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Easy access to Bath — Weekly and/or weekend bookings. Motor launch 'Mallard' takes lunchtime and supper cruises for small private parties between Bathampton and Bath or Dundas Aqueduct. For booking details in both cases contact:-

JOHN KNILL AND SONS

HAMPTON WHARF BATHAMPTON BATH BA2 6TW Telephone BATH 63603

FUNDRAISING

The ticket sales for the Trust Draw, made at the Annual General Meeting, produced a net profit of £295.

The Stroudwater Canal Sponsored Walk on 11th October had made £39 as this issue went to press. We understand that there should be more to come from this event.

The Christmas Bazaar at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on 7th November resulted in a net profit of £111.

Together with the Shell Award of £600, this makes just over £1000 raised in the last quarter (excluding Sales Stall income). A target to beat in the next quarter.

DIARY DATES

- December 5 Reminder! 50/50 Auction at the Phoenix Centre,
Beeches Road, Cirencester - see local press for details
- 5/6 Francis Turner Group Visit
- 13 Stroudwater Working Party
- 13/14 Thames End Working Party - work in Spine Road to
Boxwell Spring Length
- 26 to January 1st. Winter Work Camp
- 27 Stroudwater Working Party
- January 10 Stroudwater Working Party
- 16/17 Thames End Working Party - work probably clearing
Spine Road to Cerney Wick length
- 24 Stroudwater Working Party
- February 7 Stroudwater Working Party
- 20/21 Thames End Working Party - as 16/17 January
- 21 Stroudwater Working Party
- March 7 Stroudwater Working Party

Thames End monthly meetings are held at the Crown Inn,
Cerney Wick, on the second Tuesday of the month Winter
and Summer, commencing at 8.00 pm.

Additional dates will be worked as necessary - details
on request (see below).

VENUES, TIMES AND CONTACTS

Stroudwater Working Parties meet at 9.45 a.m. at the Eastington Plant Depot
(O.S. Map Ref. SO 786061) - a Trust Officer will be in attendance until
10.00 a.m. and directions to the day's work site will be posted near the
compound main gate.

Thames End Working Parties meet at 10.00 a.m. at the Spine Road Crossing
(O.S. Map Ref. SU 072972).

The Winter Work Camp site is between Daneway Inn (O.S. Map Ref. SO 939034)
and the Western tunnel portal.

Accommodation with catering is available for those wishing to stay overnight
(groups and individuals), but adequate notice is essential, please. For
fuller details of working parties, please contact:

Stroudwater:	Jon Willis	OR any Trust Council
Thames End:	Ken Burgin	Member (but preferably
Winter Work Camp:	David Pillinger	NOT the Secretary)
Plant & Equipment:	Alan Jones	

Sales Section

Items available from Mr.R.O.Nott,
Lynfield, Frome Park Road, Stroud,
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Please add postage at 40p per order
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STROUD AS IT WAS by Joan Tucker	£1.80
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THE THAMES & SEVERN CANAL by David Viner	£2.30
TRUST HANDBOOK & GENERAL GUIDE (now reprinted)....	£0.60
PACK OF 8 STROUDWATER/THAMES & SEVERN NOTELETS incl.envelopes, 4 different scenes	£0.40
PACK OF 6 SOUTH CERNEY LOCK NOTELETS incl.envelopes	£0.30
TRUST ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY REPORT Now reduced to	£2.50
BACK ISSUES OF "THE TROW" (Nos.1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, and Nos 14 to 35	£0.10
BLACK AND WHITE DRAWING OF TUNNEL HOUSE Suitable for framing - approx 8" x 6"	£0.25
SET OF 4 TRUST COLOURED POSTCARDS (Tunnel House, Daneway Inn, Kings Reach, Chalford Roundhouse)	£0.28
BOOK OF CANAL TUNNELS by John Gagg	£0.50
TRUST BADGES	£0.15
TRUST BALL POINT PENS	£0.15
TRUST CAR STICKERS	£0.20
IMRAY'S WATERWAYS MAP OF ENGLAND	£1.25
BARTHOLOMEW'S MAP INNS OF THE COTSWOLDS	£0.40
CANAL BOAT COOKERY by Iris Bryce	£0.80
COMMEMORATIVE BRASS celebrating restoration of Coates Portal - limited issue of 200 - only 30 now left	£5.00

THAMES END BRANCH - SECRETARY'S REPORT

Once again, it is time to write a few words for the Trow. It seems that the time interval between Trows is getting shorter and shorter (it isn't - Ed.) Perhaps this is indicative of the growing commitment to physical restoration at this end. Certainly the past few months have been very busy at Branch level with significant progress on the canal attracting an increasing number wishing to be involved. It is always pleasing to see fresh faces, both new and old(!) on working parties and at our monthly evening meetings at Cerney Wick.

Quarterly Meetings

A group of approximately 25 enjoyed the waterways films shown at Cricklade in October. The next quarterly meeting is not as yet finalised but we hope that it will be of sufficient appeal to warrant publicity in the national waterways press.

Lecture Programme

The last few months have seen increased demand for lectures and slide shows on waterways locally and nationally. Indeed, we have bookings for 12 months in advance. However, there are still a few dates open without having to wait that long! So, if you know of a group, club or society that would welcome being talked at about our cause, someone from the Trust will always be available, even if it is only a certain double act.

Grand Draw

The draw was reasonably well supported, with over 5,500 tickets sold. It was very encouraging to discover that the majority of our members sold all or part of their allocation. I would like to thank them, and in particular, those who sold far more than their initial allocation. It is with the support and effort of such campaigners locally and around the country that the Trust will succeed in its aims.

The winners were drawn at the AGM in September and are:

1st Prize	Colour TV Set	No. 10428	June Frost, Cardiff
2nd Prize	Food Processor	No. 7235	I O'Brien, Luton
3rd Prize	Alarm Clock Radio	No. 6969	M Scott, Stroud
4th Prize	Cake Dish	No. 14767	R Baker, Stroud
5th Prize	Glasses	No. 9262	D Holland, Stroud
6th Prize	Glasses	No. 0600	S Underwood, Stonehouse
7th Prize	Coffee Set	No. 5032	J Atkins, Highworth, Swindon

Charity Auction

We are holding a 50/50 auction at the Phoenix Centre, Beeches Road, Cirencester on the 5th December, details in the local press. If this Trow arrives before the date, please respond by coming along to support us. If not, please respond to the notice in the last issue (Think about it!).

David Lewis

Working Party Reports

STROUDWATER WORKING PARTY & PLANT REPORT

Since the last edition of the Trow, working parties on the Stroudwater canal have concentrated on providing a compound and plant workshop at the

disused road near the motorway access road at Eastington. The compound was started in July and has been in use for over two months, housing the Trust's vehicles, spare plant items, building materials, timber etc. A concrete sectional building, kindly donated to us by British Rail, has been re-erected on a concrete base and will soon be in use as a workshop and stores. This is situated close to Blunder Lock.

Work has continued on the two mud barges at Ryeford. Remaining work consists of finishing, scouring and painting the decks and refitting the buoyancy tank covers. Damaged areas have been replated and a storage area provided in one end of each barge. The tug originally used with these barges has been purchased and awaits hullcleaning and minor maintenance with some refitting work. It is anticipated that the barges will be completed soon by a local Stroud youth group and the tug by youth employed on an MSC/CEP scheme.

The narrow, silted area downstream of Ryeford bridge was shallow dredged sufficient to bring the barges upstream in readiness for dredging in earnest. This will begin when the dumping site for dredging has been properly drained and the old pedestrian bridge made moveable. The drainage work may again be carried out by local Stroud youth, outside the Trust membership.

Bristol University Canal Society have recently worked on the canal and should be bringing mixed groups on alternative Sundays regularly throughout the Winter period. The Francis Turner working group, who worked with us so diligently during the Summer period, will be returning again soon for a full weekend - why not come and join them or other groups on one of the dates listed on the Diary page.

A special request to Trust members living in the Ryeford/Cainscross/Stonehouse/Eastington/Leonard Stanley areas is made - we would like to see more local people assisting with work on your canal, especially in the present political climate with the Stroud E-W bypass proposals threatening the Trust's objectives. If you are unable to give some time owing to age, illness or other commitments, PLEASE try to encourage people nearby to come and help - they will probably enjoy the varied work we carry out and feel some fulfilment. We need YOUR help too!

Alan Jones - Plant Engineer

Jon Willis - Stroud Working Party Organiser

THAMES END BRANCH WORKING PARTIES REPORT

The last quarter has seen good progress at Wildmoreway with the clearance now complete to Boxwell Spring. The remaining work still to be carried out between the Spine Road and Boxwell includes the removal of some junk in the bed, the repair of the dam and paddles at Wildmoreway Upper Lock and the sealing of the stop planks at the Lower Lock.

This quarter's crowning achievement has been the long awaited commencement of the dredging operation at Cerney Wick Lock. Much credit is due to the faithful few who, during the past year, have spent a great deal of time repairing and modifying the crane for this task. It will be interesting to see what is resting below the 5 feet of mud and water in the lock eg, lock gate remains, old bottles, long lost missing persons etc! Dredging working parties will be held at random times (including weekdays). The next main working parties will be on the dates shown on the Diary page.

From time to time during the winter months the Thames End Branch will organise photographic/exploration trips to some of the less know reaches of the Thames & Severn Canal. In the past these have included visits to Dudgrove Double Lock, Eysey and the South Cerney to Siddington stretch of canal. Where there is not a public right of way, landowner permission is obtained in advance. All that is required is a spirit of unconditional adventure and an ability to penetrate jungle similar to that found near the Amazon (including snakes)! As yet we have not found the lost city of Atlantis but many long forgotten canal relics have been discovered. Anyone wishing to join a similar trip this winter should contact me.

Ken Bargin.

CIVIL ENGINEERING REPORT

1. Most of the Civil Engineering work in the last few months has been concerned with the proposed Stroud East - West Bypass. We now have quite detailed plans of the area and have been able to prove that other routes are available. Unfortunately, these affect land not in the ownership of the County Council but we believe that the additional cost involved in the acquisition of land will be well worthwhile from the amenity and environment point of view.
2. We have recently asked our Consulting Engineers, Freeman Fox & Partners to provide a submission on the likely fees required to carry out a detailed Engineering Report on the restoration of the Stroudwater Canal from Saul to Wallbridge. If this is proceeded with we would have definite detailed proposals and cost estimates for making this section of canal fully navigational with new bridges, locks etc. as required.
3. The Thames Water Authority are about to lay a new water main under the canal below Somerford Road Bridge at Siddington. Local members are asked to keep an eye on this work to ensure that the existing clay puddle is replaced after laying the main.
4. A new lifting bridge has been built by Berkshire County Council over the Kennet and Avon Canal at Aldermaston near Reading. Members are recommended to visit this site to see what can be done with the help of Local Authority funds.
5. If there are any civil, structural, municipal, highway or water engineers amongst the Membership who would like to get more involved in the Trust's activities please write to the undersigned so that a register can be prepared. It would be very useful to be able to call on Members in various parts of the Country to visit canal sites in their own area and write technical reports on canal restoration projects or prepare drawings and designs. There is also often work for surveyors, draughtsmen, cartographers, tracers etc. so the more names we have the further we can spread the work load.

Richard Veivers
Trust Civil Engineer

Please include a daytime telephone number, if possible, when submitting items for publication.
Good, contrasty PHOTOGRAPHS, 130 x 190 mm or smaller, are always welcome.

WHAT THE TRUST IS DOING

Confusingly, in addition to the East/West Bypass, there is a second new road proposal affecting the canal route, the A.419 improvement to link with the M5 Motorway. The decision to carry out this work in stages has already been taken by the Highway Authority, and preliminary procedures are now under way. However, we think we are right in saying that once again the Trust has not actually been consulted with a view to protecting the canal route, which the proposed road closely follows, during design and construction stages.

A planning application to construct an access road across the Canal at Dudbridge recently came to our notice, and this has been successfully opposed.

Liaison with the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation on restoration of their waterway is a continuous process. A great deal of painstaking investigation is entailed, as not only are we involved in discussion with the 15 or so owners of land adjacent to the sections we are working on, but also we are re-discovering constructional detail of the canal, knowledge which it had not been important to retain after the canal became disused, but which is now vital to the restoration and subsequent return to navigation.

We have had to start from scratch to obtain and prepare a suitable tip site to dispose of the arisings from the dredging operation shortly to commence in earnest in the Ryeford area. Did you know that the most important consideration when using a piece of land, however derelict and apparently inconsequential it may appear, for tipping is to ensure that the drainage both of the site itself and of the surrounding area, in this case quite large, is not affected in such a way as to cause danger to life or property? Well, it is - and it is not easy - and this stage is still in progress - and so there can be no dredging yet - and so the Trust again appears to be doing no restoration work on the canals.

In September we reported that we had at last been able to establish our new plant compound and workshop at Eastington. The behind-the-scenes story of this achievement shows yet again the essential, time-consuming work which displaces potential restoration effort if too few are actively involved. The complex at Aston Down was put on the market towards the end of 1979; it is now the end of 1981, and we are still completing our new premises. Most of the two years have been taken up with locating and negotiating for the site (including several abortive false starts), obtaining the planning permission and finding and purchasing a suitable, robust workshop building. In the intervening period all our plant and equipment has been moved twice (some of it three, four or even five times) and the refurbishing work on the dredger has been completed without the benefits of covered accommodation or an electric power supply.

We have tried to show in this issue that a tremendous amount is going on towards the restoration, even if it may not be apparent to those members who are not actively involved. We would venture to suggest that the best way to get to know what is happening, and incidentally to make it happen faster, is to become involved yourself in what should now be increasingly exciting times as the dredger crew begins its task.

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY WRITES

Your Editor has asked me to explain a little of what is involved in keeping the membership records and how I cope (David means 'how he makes it look easy' - Ed.), so here goes.

Living as I do some distance away, I believe it to be essential that I have a system which works with little or preferably no prompting. The basis of my work is membership - obviously I have a membership list and enter details of new members onto this as they join - sending out renewal reminders, second reminders and membership cards, deleting lapsed or resigned members from the membership list, and so on.

The membership list itself, photocopied, I cut up and paste on, providing the address labels for Trow envelopes. In this way, with some additional controls, we avoid the despatch of costly mail to lapsed members. To save on postage, the completed envelopes, with details of 'doubles' (more than one copy for one address in one envelope), complimentary copies and additional enclosures, I deliver on one of my visits to Stroud, generally well in advance of publication date as the cost of petrol now prohibits more journeys than are absolutely necessary.

On a pre-arranged date, I post to the Editor a packet containing second renewal reminders, last minute membership cards, a note of lapsed members (the envelopes for these need to be removed from the 'system') and the labels for last minute new members.

Membership numbers in numerical order is the scheme used throughout all this, and an alphabetical index to the numbers enables a cross check to be made. No doubt someone will now write to say he (or she) gets 86 copies, each with a slightly different address!

Membership Progress

Since the beginning of January 1981, there has been a net increase in membership of 1.6% - better than a loss, but not much! There have been a number of suggestions that we should publish a list of new members for each quarter in the 'Trow' and it just so happens that I have prepared a list of those who have joined since the beginning of last December, so:

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members:-

N A Abbott	Stroud, Glos.	Master B D Handford	
D J Atkins	Chesham, Bucks.		Hinckley, Leics.
Mr & Mrs D Atlass	Wembley Park, Middx.	B Harrison	Stonehouse, Glos.
Dr A Attwood	London SW6.	D A Hemingway	Sutton C'fld, W Mid.
J D Baker	Huntley, Glos.	Mr & Mrs E Hereward Phillips	
K Bell	W Byfleet, Surrey		Framilode, Glos.
S J Bell	Aylesbury, Bucks.	M S Joy	Manchester.
C J Bennellick	Stroud, Glos.	J P Leyland	Reading, Berks.
D Bradshaw	Hastings, Sussex.	J H March	Whitminster, Glos.
R Brunstrom	Brighton, Sussex.	A N Melchior	Highworth, Wilts.
E A Carrington	Stonehouse, Glos.	N D New	Edgeware, Middx.
Mrs T Y Causon	Quedgeley, Glos.	Mr & Mrs L P Nickolay	
Deborah J Clarke	Winchcombe, Glos.		Arnold, Nottingham.
R A Dewey	Huddersfield, W Yks.	P J Oates	Southampton, Hants.
D S Fforde	Stroud, Glos.	A C Pentelow	Swindon, Wilts.
F Freeth	Cricklade, Wilts.	Dr R S Pereira	Twickenham, Wilts.

D J Phillips	Stonehouse, Glos.	A St John Price	York.
J F Pignon	Reading, Berks.	Mr & Mrs D Taylor	Cirencester, Glos.
R Pryor	Cambridge,	M D Taylor	Woodstock, Oxon.
Jill S Reason	Highworth, Wilts.	R Taylor	Southfields, London.
Mr & Mrs V E Reason	Highworth, Wilts.	R Treadwell	Church Crookham, Hants
E A Saunders	Chippenham, Wilts.	R J Warner	Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Mr & Mrs N Shepherd	Ebley, Stroud, Glos.	R W Wheeler	Llanrwst, Gwynedd.
Miss B J Smith	Stroud, Glos.	J Woods	Beckenham, Kent.
		Mr & Mrs H Wright	Wotton-U-Edge, Glos.

WILLIAM DENNY GEORGE (Continued from previous issues)

In their marriage certificate, Denny styles himself a Canal Company clerk, and his father is by then a slate merchant. Annie had been born on 16 October 1836 the third of six daughters of Ann & George Horsey, Draper and Freeman of the City of London since July 1831 but by 1862 an employee of the East India Company. (George Horsey had married Ann Rogers, a rather religiously minded girl, on 15 March 1831 at St Mary's Church, Marylebone. Only 10 days before that marriage, George's brother Thomas had written to their father that he hoped "that George will show by his attention to business and disposition to please you that he is deserving of what you have promised him. As I have said before so I say now that I think Ann will make George a good wife and he will be comfortable but he must know that a married life is more serious than a single one." Poor Ann.)

Now settled at last, Denny remains in or near Gloucester for the next 10 years. His employment is always with the canals and eventually he becomes, for many years, the principal agent for J Fellows & Co of Gloucester, carriers and shipping agents on the Thames and Severn and adjoining navigations. Then he is appointed District Agent of the Birmingham section of the "Sharpness New Docks & Gloucester and Birmingham Navigation Co", and by November 1874 he and his still growing family have in consequence moved to 98 Varna Road, Edgbaston, in Birmingham. By June 1887 Denny has become not only the agent but also the manager and Traffic Superintendent of the entire system operated by that canal company. Because of his wide experience, Denny from time to time is called to give evidence before Parliamentary Committees on canal matters and in 1914 he is one of the Severn Navigation Commissioners, though he had retired from active work for the canal company in March 1907.

Meanwhile, Denny and Annie have had seven children. Their eldest, Mary Twining George, was born at Gloucester on 13 November 1862. The youngest was Albert Joseph George, born 12 years later (after they had moved to Birmingham) who with his elder brother William was to run the successful business enterprises of Will and Joe George; amongst other things scientific instrument makers and inventors of Yeastvite. The second child, Florence Annie George, was one of the first trained cookery teachers. She taught at King Edward's High School for Girls, in Birmingham, and published in 1901 an outstanding Cookery Book. Far ahead of its time, it was reprinted 26 times up to 1946; a new revised edition was published in 1950.

Mary herself was unusual. By all accounts a young woman of great ability and strong character, she got herself educated at Mason's College, Birmingham, which was later to form the nucleus of the University. The whole family being strict nonconformists, Mary also engaged on various good works connected with Carrs Lane Congregational Chapel, the main centre of such worship in Birmingham and later to be important to our story.

(To be continued)



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Published by the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust Limited.

Printed by B.P. Hawkins Ltd., 4 London Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Tel. Stroud 79459.

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