

*Stroudwater, Thames & Severn
Canal Trust Limited*

THE TROW

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WORKING TO RESTORE THE COTSWOLD CANALS.

Number 37

March 1982



CONTENTS

Secretary's Report	2
Fund Raising Report	4
Inland Waterways Association	4
What the Trust is Doing	6
Thames End Branch Secretary's Report	7
The Membership Secretary's Ghost Writer Writes	8
Who's Who	} Centre Pull-Out
Diary Dates	
Postal Sales	
Sales Section Report	13
Working Party Reports	14
Book Reviews	16
William Denyer George	17
Letter	18
Hall's Oxford Beers at Latton Wharf	19
Stroud E-W Bypass (with map)	20
National Waterway System Map	Inside Rear Cover

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The views and opinions expressed by individuals in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust Limited.

Cover Illustration: Rodney Vaughan, representing Shell UK Ltd., presents a cheque for £600 to David Boakes, Secretary to the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust (see December issue). The money was made available through the Shell/Inland Waterways Association Restoration Awards Scheme. Left to right:- Jon Willis, Trust Working Party Organiser, David Boakes, Ron Oakley, Chairman South West Region IWA and Rodney Vaughan. (No prizes for identifying the location).

THE TROW

The Official Magazine for members of
the Canal Trust.



No. 37

March 1982.

EDITORIAL

"Anon - choice of about twelve" certainly created a stir last time. The 'Stroud News & Journal', our local weekly newspaper, reprinted his or her editorial in full..... the Trust Council decided to force-feed local councillors with a dose of full-scale restoration and took a coach-load of them to the Basingstoke Canal for the day..... and 'A Wellwisher' sent in a donation of £500 on the strength of "the high positivity content".

I only hope I can keep up the high standard.

The most important development since December is, without doubt, the decision by the full Stroud District Council to safeguard the canal routes from any further obstruction by development. The main reason for this decision would seem to be a combination of the highly professional approach of the Trust's officers and the continuing support of enthusiasts and local people alike.

It has taken us over ten years of campaigning to obtain "the big one". Many of us realized, after the problems of 1976/7, that the reasoned, professional approach was the only way forward. The issues we have been faced with since then often have been too sensitive to broadcast. We have had our differences with other parties, but we are taken seriously now and we do have a civilized relationship even with our remaining opponents. Hopefully, on the wider aspect of new development and road construction in the Stroud area (let us not forget the Cross, the High Street and the A419 link to the M5 Motorway - all parts of the future of the town), a repetition of the 1976 Ring Road Inquiry and the kind of pitched battle we saw there can be avoided this time (I wonder how much that cost relative to the £600,000 which it is now required to save?).

There are a number of possible savings on the present schemes on which the Trust can offer advice, if we are allowed. We must consider, too, offering to trade the sort of work our volunteers can do in exchange for part of the costs of the additional works which retention of the canal will necessitate - this may very well involve the restoration movement in work unconnected with the canal itself.

So we must remember the wider picture. We are working for the benefit of Stroud as well as the canal and the Trust's membership. We have always supported the E-W Bypass in preference to the Ring Road because it is best for the town - yet the Ring Road did not affect the canal at all!

Of course, Gloucestershire County Council has yet to have its say, but surely it must accept the SDC decision. Or must it? If our local authorities can co-operate with us from now on, we will have a bypass and a working canal within a very short time and there is no reason why there should be any job losses on the Wallbridge site. We are already, through our eminently qualified engineers and consultants, making prodigious efforts to lessen the impact of our requirements

on other aspects of plans for the future of Stroud.

It is extremely important now that we do begin the restoration in earnest. In the short term, this will comprise the Ryford Dredging Project and the Wildmoorway - Boxwell Project (also known as the Water Park Scheme). These two lengths of canal need to be substantially completed by the time we are ready to commence the comprehensive restoration, initially working eastwards from Saul. There can be no doubting that the Trust's intention is to re-open both canals to navigation throughout, and we have to start somewhere. The only way to restore the through route is to concentrate our resources on a small number of locations and progress along the line, leaving behind us a fully reinstated and maintained channel. Low standard interim work will not be undertaken - this was the mistake which was repeatedly made during the canals' working life, as is evident from the extensive records of the old companies which still exist. As sections are opened, they will begin to generate income to finance further works. Hopefully, we will be able to rely on local statutory and non-statutory bodies for financial and/or physical support.

And the time to start is now. In the next issue, I hope to give a full timetable of the work we have ahead. That is a firm commitment on my part, and I shall need to obtain an equally firm commitment from our Trust Council in order to do it. Will the Council in turn get a firm enough commitment from the membership? Because if it does not, there will be no restoration.

And that's a promise.

This whole subject is dealt with in great detail elsewhere in this issue, both from the political and engineering points of view, and this may have resulted in some regular items being omitted.

Last time, she (or he) mentioned vacancies: 9 were listed by title in the centre section. Well, we now have two distribution managers who are going to share the job and a possible editorial assistant.

Now, it is undeniably a fact that this journal is produced primarily for the benefit of members of the Trust and the Trust comprises solely these members. So if I say "Where are the Members of the Trust?", I am asking TWO rhetorical questions. They and it are reading this editorial.

I will make you another promise. If I cannot fill-in the vacancies for the next issue, I am going to begin a campaign of knocking on your doors one at a time. And your excuses had better be good!

Barry Balderstone (Acting Editor).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

EAST-WEST BYPASS - THE CONTINUING SAGA

Since the last edition of the Trow, much effort has been devoted to the fight to secure the Canal route through Stroud. A party of Stroud District Councillors were taken by coach, at the Trust's expense, on the 6th January to visit the Basingstoke Canal. They were met by Surrey & Hants Canal Society Chairman Robin Higgs, Project Manager Frank Jones and Working Party Organiser Mike Fellowes and taken on a conducted tour of parts of the Canal, visiting both restored and un-restored sections together with the Lock Gate Workshop, where they saw new lock gates being constructed from timber supplied free-of-charge by Surrey County Council. Over lunch, officers of Hampshire and Surrey County Councils met and talked with our District Councillors. The same evening, on our return, a meeting was held in Stroud between interested District Councillors and officers of the Trust and here our progress and future programme were discussed

in great detail.

It was unfortunate that the majority of councillors in favour of the 'Canal' Route (Route A) for the Bypass were unable to be present at either of these events.

On Monday 18th January, Stroud District Council held an open meeting to discuss the "Canals Issue", and representatives of Stroud Civic Society, the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation, the County Surveyor's Department and the Trust were present to inform District Councillors regarding the canals' future and to answer questions. The Trust was represented by Robin Higgs (Surrey & Hants Canal Society), J. Farnell (Freeman, Fox, Braine & Partners - consultants to the Trust), Richard Veevers (Trust Civil Engineer) and myself.

The Trust presented a new line for the Bypass route which, it was admitted by the County Council representatives, had certain advantages over those previously presented (there is a map on page 20 showing all the route proposals; a map of the entire line of the canals from Framilode to Lechlade was published in the Trow No. 31, September 1980). The new route, D, ensures that the canal line is not broken, protects the greater part of the business area between the canal and the river by incorporating a short new section at the western end and provides for a road alignment acceptable to the Department of Transport.

Interestingly, the majority of questions from councillors was directed to Mr. McBean of Gloucestershire County Council and centred on the feasibility of retaining a canal route at the same time as providing the new road. The meeting closed with Mr. McBean being asked to study the Trust's proposals and report back to the full District Council meeting on the 18th February.

At the February meeting, following Mr. McBean's report and full discussion by the Council, the SDC's Leisure & Amenity Committee's recommendation of the 3rd November 1981 was adopted by 24 votes to 7. The resolution basically states that there should be no further obstruction, whether by road or building development, which would involve the infilling or blocking of the Stroudwater or Thames & Severn Canals so as to prevent the ultimate restoration of these waterways for through navigation.

We must be thankful for this decision.

Firstly, we must thank all those councillors who have had the faith in this Trust to support us to this degree and, as a Trust, we must justify this faith by producing results.

Secondly, we have had widespread support during our campaign, which really began with the Ring Road Inquiry in 1976, from individuals and organisations both locally and throughout the country. We must repay their confidence also. True, we did undertake some canvassing for this support, but this is no more than government agencies themselves do in seeking to advance the policies of the day.

Thirdly, by this decision, the Trust has been elevated to a higher league. Our task now is to play yet harder and win the restoration prize.

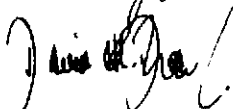
And Fourthly, it is essential that we do not lose the goodwill and interest that we have generated thus far. We must now get to work.

SPONSORED WALK

Just to remind you all, members and friends, that this year the Annual Sponsored Walk will take place on Sunday 9th May (details enclosed with this issue). How about making every effort to ensure that this is another record-breaking exercise? We have achieved our goal politically and everyone's support, either by walking or sponsorship, is essential to ensure that our momentum is maintained.

HARRY AND DINAH DAVIDSON

The best wishes of us all, I feel sure, are extended to Harry and Dinah following Harry's recent illness - we have missed you from the Sales Stand. Come back: all is forgiven and we do need the money! Seriously, we hope to see again soon.



DAVID H BOAKES

FUND RAISING

by Oi!

We have received a donation of £500 from 'A Wellwisher' because, as he puts it, "The December issue of the Trow was so full of detailed news and positive thinking". Alan Jones has already spent it.

The May 1981 Sponsored Walk (!) has hiccupped and yielded another £50....

The final figure for the Stroudwater Walk is £180 net, a further gain of £141.

The Thames End Charity Auction on the 5th December made a net profit of £70.

The total for this last quarter therefore is only £761 excluding sales stall income. On analysis, this is probably a reflection of the paucity during the period of events at which funds could be raised and, as I have no previous figures to go on, it is impossible to tell whether this could be the norm. I will be able to make a judgement this time next year.

We know that many of our members are retired or are too heavily committed elsewhere to undertake physical work on the restoration, but there are many, many other ways in which you can help. What about coffee mornings and jumble sales? What about making items for the sales teams to sell? Do you belong to another organisation whose members would like a slide lecture on the canals (for a small fee)? Can you think of a dam' fool scheme to raise money?

When you renew your subscription next, why not add a little extra to help with our running costs - stationery, postage, diesel fuel for the plant, gas for welding, etc., etc.? Have you a close friend living nearby who is also a member and would be willing to share your envelope when the Trow is mailed - it saves us postage. Have you a close friend living nearby who ought to be a member? Should your wife/husband/son/daughter/niece/uncle/grandmother be a member?

Elsewhere in this issue are appeals for volunteers for once only projects - manager for the Sponsored Walk catering facility, canvassers to deliver publicity for the walk - and for materials - old paint: can you help?

Please, PLEASE think of and do something. Some of you out there must want these canals restored, or you would not be reading this. We must generate our income in these sorts of ways, at least in the short term. When there is a length of canal open (preferably connected to the main system, but not necessarily) we will have a service which we can sell.

When.

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

For some little while now, it has been Trust policy to secure greater support for our aims from outside bodies such as the Inland Waterways Association. It is only fair, then, that we should support them in return and details of local IWA

activities will appear in the Trow from time to time, starting with this issue.

Gloucestershire Branch Graham Ettles, the new secretary of our local branch, is determined to revitalise branch affairs. He has arranged one of John Huntley's well-known presentations of rare archive canal films at Cheltenham Town Hall on Tuesday 9th March at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £1-50 at the door (children 75p) or £1-25 in advance from:

Gheltenham - Town Hall Box Office. Tel. 23690;
 Stroud - Stroud Music Centre, 49 London Road. Tel. 3587;
 Gloucester - Starline Travel Ltd., 2A Clarence Street. Tel. 416881;
 Tewkesbury - Tewkesbury Yacht Marina Ltd., Bredon Road. Tel. 293737 or Pat's Fabrics;
 Cirencester - Baily & Woods, 19 Market Place. Tel. 3004;
 Winchcombe - Phoenix Bookshop, 19 North Street. Tel. 602795.

These shows are invariably extremely interesting - John Huntley is a dedicated transport and film enthusiast and an accomplished storyteller. Very good value.

Further Branch events planned are:

Fri 26th MAR - Branch AGM, 7.30 pm at Gloucester Guildhall. The meeting will be followed by a talk or film and then a meal at a local steak house;

APR - Waterways Talk at Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club (TMYC);

Tue 11th MAY - Talk by David Boakes and Michael Reynolds on (you've guessed!) the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals. At TMYC;

JUN - Coach trip to the Kennet & Avon Canal;

JUL - Group cruise in members' boats to Lower Lode area on the River Severn, from Tewkesbury and Gloucester. Non-boatowners welcome.

Full details from Graham, whose address is given on the Diary Dates page.

Oxford & South Bucks Branch LECHLADE '82 - The Oxford & South Bucks Branch, in association with the Trust Thames End Branch, is holding a gathering of boats on the Thames at Lechlade over the weekend of the 5th and 6th June, with information displays, sales stands and a barbeque. On the Sunday, there will be a procession of boats from Lechlade as far upstream as possible and return plus a canoe run down from Cricklade - certificates will be awarded on completion of the course. The idea is to promote support for the Higher Thames Project (see the Trow, June 1981 - a fuller report with route plan appeared in 'Waterways World' for July 1981). This Project does, of course, obviate the need to restore the canal between Lechlade and Cricklade. Details from Janet Ridley, see Diary page.

West Country Branch BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON CAMPAIGN CRUISE - the Branch, together with the Somerset Inland Waterways Society, has been campaigning for many years for the re-opening of the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal in Somerset. Three Annual Campaign Cruises have been held to draw attention to the attractions of cruising on this waterway and it has been decided that the fourth cruise will take place on Sunday 16th May 1982, leaving Bridgwater at 9.00 am and finishing at Bathpool, near Taunton. The route is 11½ miles with four locks and, although full height cabin craft cannot join the cruise due to the present restriction on air draught, it is very important that as many craft as possible, from canoes upwards, use the canal on the day, pass through the locks and are seen to be cruising.

During 1981, the British Waterways Board published the report "Bridgwater & Taunton, A Canal and its Future". On the basis of this report, a decision is expected to be made by BWB and local councils later in 1982 as to the option to adopt for the future of the canal. Alternatives range from 'do nothing' to full restoration, the latter being the one favoured by IWA. This is another of those LAST CHANCES which authority seems to revel in when dealing with canals (sounds familiar - Ed).

The entry fee for the cruise is £1-00 per craft (with certain exceptions) and

details, entry forms are available from John Parker, address on Diary page.

WHAT THE TRUST IS DOING

ABOUT THOSE VACANCIES

- not a lot. Individual vacancies were listed in the December issue to show that there really are gaps in our organisation. Only a few were in fact given because of lack of space. Now, as a result, we have two Trow Distribution Organisers (who will be recruiting assistants locally) and a possible editorial assistant.

Can it be possible that you, all of you (except for three) out there, do not believe that, when we ask for involvement, we are asking each one of you without exception? Or is it that you do not feel you would be able to cope with the work involved? Or perhaps you do not actually want the canals re-instated, now or ever?

There are rather less than 40 members really committed on Trust work. Some of these are carrying three and four separate functions, each having a workload in excess of any normal leisure commitment. Yes - that does mean that they are doing three or four times as much as it is reasonable to ask of them and it is you who are doing the asking.

Two members in particular are known for certain to be neglecting their own small businesses (even in this period of recession) in the attempt to ensure that the two canals are not lost.

This is not fair. Particularly now that we have, apparently, gained official approval for through restoration.

We know that a large number of former working members withdrew or curtailed active support from 1976 or thereabouts as a result of certain problems which were being experienced with the management procedures of the Trust. Now, it is 1982: those problems are solved and success is within our grasp. But success does not fall out of the sky - it has to be worked for and that means someone to do the work.

Please think again about those vacancies. They are:

Dredger Foreman and Crew - at present, two of our working party organisers are doing this with such help as they can from time to time secure. As a result, no work has yet been undertaken on the tug although it has been on site since late October. It cost a good deal of money and is urgently required in service. The tug will soon be ready but unuseable as we will not be able to transport the arisings to it. Can you help? If enough people were to come forward, we could arrange a rota system based on only every third or fourth working party date, say.

Events Organiser - no-one is covering this, so there are very few social events planned, especially in the Stroud area. Yet we receive a steady flow of complaints on this point, both from members and non-members - even one from a local councillor! We are also missing out on possible venues for our sales stands. Can you help? A telephone at home, and a facility to arrange dates and speakers and venues are the qualifications needed - you do not even need to know about canals. (This is the same job description as 'Meetings Secretary' which I tried to operate in 1979/80 - I had to give it up, as the only spare time I had and have is when I am asleep: Ed).

Fund Raising Officer - covered by Trust Officers on a panic basis as the need or opportunity arises. This can impress no-one, and we are quite sure that we lose the possibility of income quite often because we cannot react quickly to offers. Again, very much an 'office' type job with much of the work done by telephone.

Gloucester and Stroud Area Secretaries - two more duties which are not under-

taken at present. One could be combined with Events Organiser and the other with Assistant to the Membership Secretary (this last position is still waiting to be advertised) without overtaxing a moderately enthusiastic member. But four people would be better than two, two better than none.

Maintenance Organiser, Restored Sections - this position will become increasingly important in the future. We can give a clear idea of what is involved and two members are already active in the field (at Coates). There is plenty of help available - where is the person to receive it?

Trow Advertising Manager - once again, a telephone job. You will notice that there are no external advertisements in this issue. When we have a satisfactory level of advertising, we will be able to produce a better magazine. The editor would like to include more photographs and drawings, for instance, but it is Trust policy that the Trow should be financed only from a proportion of the membership subscription plus whatever income it can itself generate. It is a known fact in our kind of operation that the more professional your magazine, the more seriously you are taken by authority and other outside agencies. Membership recruitment is also enhanced.

VIGILANCE Two short lengths of canal near Latton have recently been infilled. They are within the property of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. and the Trust is currently seeking to clarify the situation. We believe that Co-op policy is not to infill, but this does serve to demonstrate that the vigilance of members is an important part of restoration. If you see anything happening on or near the canal line, telephone the Trust there and then. That someone who is bound to notice is probably yourself. There is a selection of telephone numbers in the Centre Pull-Out and the Trust has entries in the Gloucester Area Telephone Directory.

Still on this subject, it would be useful if a member or members could undertake to abstract cuttings about the canals from the local press, especially reports on planning matters.

CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE It is understood that Cotswold District Council, Cricklade Town Council and Latton Parish Council have all been in communication with Stroud District Council recently to express their support for restoration to through navigation. CDC is also thought to have adopted a policy of refusing planning permission where development would obstruct the route.

We are quick to criticize when authority opposes, but we like also to express our thanks for this kind of support and our Secretary will be taking the appropriate action. Does anyone know of similar instances where other District, Town or Parish Councils have supported the Trust through official channels in this way?

LET IT BE KNOWN Copies of this and the December issues are being sent to Gloucestershire and Wiltshire County Councillors, District Councillors and Town and Parish Councils along the route. We already operate a comprehensive mailing list for complimentary copies to landowners, local authorities, benefactors, associated local bodies, the press and, nationally, canal societies. Anyone else?

THIS COLUMN HEAD is not a mis-nomer. "What the Trust is Doing" is synonymous with what you are doing. When we have reports of 'doings', we will print them.

THAMES END BRANCH - SECRETARY'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The Branch AGM will be held this year at The Crown, Cerney Wick on Tuesday 13th April at 7.30 pm. The various reports will be followed by the election of the Branch Committee and

Officers. Prior notification of nominations is not required but nominees' agreement to stand must be given to the meeting.

50/50 AUCTIONS

Our last auction held at the Phoenix Centre, Cirencester in December last made a net profit of £70. Whilst there were plenty of goods, we were short on buyers which may have been due to the nearness to Christmas and present-buying. However, we thank all those who put up goods and the purchasers.

Learning from our mistakes, we are holding a further 50/50 Auction on March 27th at St. Michael's Hall, Highworth - so if you wish to realise cash for those unwanted goods in the attic or garage and help the restoration at the same time, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!

CANAL EXPOSITION - BRUNEL PLAZA, SWINDON

Members may have visited the Trust Stand (several joined as a result) at the Brunel Plaza, Swindon, last Easter. We have again booked an area for Saturday 17th April 1982, this time the weekend after Easter, and have invited both the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group and the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust to join us. Come along and see the displays, learn about the progress of the local Waterways Movement and then BUY from the Sales Stands.

LECHLADE '82 & TRUST BARBEQUE

A reminder that the Branch is heavily involved with the Oxford Branch of the IWA in organising a boat gathering at Lechlade on 5th & 6th June. Helpers are needed - please contact Ken Burgin for full details including transport arrangements.

SALES STAND

The Branch runs its own Sales Stand under Bob Bulpin's control. Through his hard work, Bob made a profit of several hundred pounds last year, visiting among other venues RAF Fairford Open Day and 'Crofton Unlocked'. Bob is hoping to expand his operation and will be pleased to hear of any Shows or Events where he can take the Stand this year. If you can suggest any contacts, please call him on Swindon 726598.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Cancelled because you did not organise it.

David Lewis.

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S GHOST-WRITER WRITES

Firstly, a few new members:

A J Cantwell	Stonehouse, Glos.	Jane M Ridley	Cirencester, Glos.
C Hadfield	South Cerney, Glos.	D Wadley	Cirencester, Glos.
J W Henn	Pucklechurch, Bristol.	F J Wathan	Stroud, Glos.
M E Langford	Dursley, Glos.		

- all nice and local, just right for working parties.....

During the year, the following members' Trows have been returned 'gone away' - does anyone know their present addresses?

Mr. & Mrs. A J Bradford, Upland Villa, Burcombe Rd, Chalford Hill, Stroud, Glos.
 Mr. & Mrs. T A Laceby, The Cottage, Wells Lane, Kellington, Coole, Yorks.
 Mr. & Mrs. M Matthews, 272 Haslucks Green Rd, Shirley, Solihull, W. Mids.
 Mrs. Z S Owen, ? Highwood Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos.

- was it something we said?

Included with this issue are the R185 forms "Certificate of Deduction of Income Tax" for signature by members who have submitted a Deed of Covenant during the year. These should be returned in the pre-paid envelope provided as soon as possible. In the past we have sent these under separate cover, but we can save a little by sending them with the Trow.

David Jordan.

DIARY DATES

March	7	Stroudwater Working Party
	9	John Huntley Films at Cheltenham Town Hall, 8.00 pm - IWA Gloucestershire Branch (Graham Ettles, Carlton House, 117 Leckampton Rd, Cheltenham, Glos).
	13-14	Thames End Working Party
	13-14	Waterway Recovery Group visit, working on Stroudwater
	21	Stroudwater Working Party
	27	50/50 Auction at St. Michael's Hall, Highworth, Wilts at 2.00 pm
	27-28	Thames End Working Party
	27-28	Waterway Recovery Group visit, working on Stroudwater
April	4	Stroudwater Working Party
	13	Thames End Branch AGM at the Crown, Cerney Wick at 7.30 pm (prior to normal monthly meeting)
	17	Canal Exposition at the Brunel Centre, Swindon.
	18	Stroudwater Working Party
	24	Summit Exploration - on safari in the lost wastes of the Summit Level, Thames & Severn Canal, near Thames Head (Ken Burgin)
May	2	Stroudwater Working Party
	9	Annual Sponsored Walk, Stroud & Daneway (Michael Reynolds)
	16	Stroudwater Working Party
	16	Bridgwater & Taunton Canal Fourth Annual Campaign Cruise - IWA West Country Branch (John Parker, 56 Green Close, Exmouth, Devon. Tel. Exmouth 6930)
	29-31	Thames End Working Party
June	5-6	LECHLADE '82 Campaign Cruise & Barbeque - jointly with IWA Oxford & South Bucks Branch (Janet Ridley, 12 Bernard Close, Yarnton, Oxford OX5 1QP. Tel. Kidlington 78149 or David Lewis)
	12-13	Stroudwater Working Party
	26-27	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 am at the Eastington Plant Depot (OS Map Ref SO 786061) - a Trust Officer will be in attendance until 10.00 am and directions to the day's work site will be posted at the compound gate.

Thames End Working Parties meet at 10.00 am at the Spine Road Crossing (OS Map Ref SU 072972).

Contacts for further information are Stroudwater - Jon Willis; Thames End - Ken Burgin; Plant and Equipment - Alan Jones; Daneway - David Pillinger.

Sales Section

Items available from Mr.R.O.Nott,
Lynfield, Frome Park Road, Stroud,
Glos. GL5 3LF. (Tel: Stroud 3014).
Please add postage at 40p per order
for any value under £10.00. Orders
over £10.00 post free. Cheques/PO's
payable to "Stroudwater Thames &
Severn Canal Trust Ltd"

STROUD AS IT WAS by Joan Tucker	£1.80
CHELTENHAM AS IT WAS by Roger Beacham	£2.30
CIRENCESTER AS IT WAS by David Viner	£2.30
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

SALES SECTION

After relinquishing the editorship of the Trow, I suffered under the vain delusion that I would be able to produce pages of scintillating copy promoting the sales section of the Trust. Time, as always, has defeated me, but the following notes may be of interest:-

Our total turnover for the current financial year is well over £2000, which has enabled us to channel about £600 profit into the Trust's main account for use in actual restoration work. This is not bad going considering the small size of our sales team (at times I get the distinct feeling that the strength of the team never rises much above 1), but thanks to various members of my family, David & Margaret Boakes and "The Peril", Dinah and Dave Davison and various itinerant helpers throughout the year, we manage to cover an awful lot of England and even Wales - we haven't yet got as far as Scotland or Ireland. I have mentioned the above figures in broad terms to give our helpers and other members some idea of what we achieve - unfortunately, due to the machinations of our Machiavellian Treasurer and Svengalian Secretary (this should get me drummed out of the Trust!) our results always get submerged in the accounts under General Fund Raising. Our figures could of course be increased considerably (a) if we had more regular helpers and (b) if more items for sale were donated to us, so please contact me if you feel you can help in any way.

The Caravan at Tunnel House, Coates, had a reasonable year, despite a fairly bad season as far as weather was concerned. Although money has got scarcer, and furthermore there is little actual restoration work going on at this site, it still attracts a lot of people, not all of whom are canal lovers, but not many of them escape without buying something! Readers may not all be aware that our stalwart helper, Dinah Davison, had to relinquish her invaluable assistance at this site last Autumn, due to the unfortunate illness of her husband, Dave. We gather that Dave is slowly recovering now and would assure him and Dinah that their cheerful presence is keenly missed. I believe our President has some words to say on this subject in his report, so I will say no more here other than to thank Dinah again for all the hours she has spent, often in very inclement weather, on the Trust's behalf.

We are fortunate now in having a separate Sales Section ably operated by the Thames Branch, and as I believe they are contributing their own report in this issue, I will leave them to speak for themselves. Readers can be assured, however, that whichever end of our two canals they spend their money, it will benefit the Trust in general.

We are currently booking venues for the coming season, and already have the usual sites such as the IWA National Rally, various steam fairs, Wroughton Science Museum Open Day, etc., booked in. Please do let me know, however, if you have any ideas for fresh fields to conquer.

Thanks to the kindness of Mr Trevor Roberts, proprietor of Stroud Bookshop, Gloucester Street, Stroud, I am arranging to have a small sales and information table in his shop on certain Saturdays as and when convenient to him and us. I cannot give precise dates, but there will be a board outside on any Saturday when we are there. I shall be pleased to see any members, who will no doubt find the bookshop itself of much interest, and even more pleased to extract some money from them. And before David B asks me - no, Mr Roberts hasn't got any Household Thames & Severn's in stock!

A final word - book reviews appear on another page covering some books now in stock - we are in fact waiting for further copies of 'Severn & Canal and Cadburys', of which a review should appear in the next Trow. A fascinating book in the Robert Wilson series, containing many illustrations of local interest. Cost is £1.25 plus 20p postage, and if you have not yet purchased

this book, it can be obtained from me, thus helping Trust funds. A reminder here that books from many publishers, such as David & Charles, Robert Wilson, Moorland Publishing, Eyre Methuen Ltd, etc., can be ordered through me, again helping to swell our coffers. I hope in the next Trow to give more details of other items available from our stock.

Ron Nott

WORKING PARTY CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

WINTER WORK CAMP 1981 Despite the best efforts of the weather, considerable progress was made during the Christmas Work Camp at Daneway thanks to the attendance of London WRG and other assorted enthusiasts. Most of the remaining timber was cleared as far as the tunnel entrance. In recent weeks, Stroud Sea Cadets have made their presence felt by lifting much of the fallen stonework to above the portal so that it can be examined prior to a detailed assessment of the rebuilding being made. It is possible that we may hold a further outside work camp here in the summer, to make a start on the approach walls.

COATES This site is looking pretty smart these days thanks to the efforts of David and Elana Turner. They have taken on the work which would have been done by the lengthman in the canal's working days ('Old Willum' in the Household book). This was and is a lonely task but we do assure them that they are by no means forgotten. Come to think of it, they probably have not got an Organiser breathing down their neck all the time - which might be an advantage.

AWAY DIG WEEKEND Hopefully it will be possible to arrange a trip this Spring to either the Montgomery or Basingstoke Canals - dates not certain at the moment - but if you would like to take a look at someone else's problems, please let one of our Organisers know.

MEMBER RESPONSE If you thought the December Trow contained too many demands for volunteers, you will have heart failure this time! But we must, must, MUST have more people out working on the canals. We realize that it is not possible for all of you to help in this way, but please search your conscience before deciding you cannot. If you really can't manage a few days on site, do you know of a person or group, any person or group, who can? If so, telephone us and we will do the rest. Telephone numbers are in the Information Section; we are also in the local telephone directory.

David Pillinger.

THAMES END BRANCH WORKING PARTY REPORT

WATER PARK SCHEME (see Trow No. 32 for explanation and map) The last quarter has seen intensive activity and significant progress along almost all of the length of canal within the Water Park area. At Cerny Wick, about a third of the lock has been dredged in spite of snow and frequent mechanical problems with the crane and grab. Further repairs and modifications to the equipment currently being carried out should speed up progress.

Nearly three miles upstream an intrepid working party has cleared a culvert and excavated some drainage channels in the silt in the canal bed to improve the water supply downstream: the December snow fell round about (and on) them and local temperatures were recorded as low as -13°C .

Water levels have been consistently high both above and below Wildmoorway Lower

Lock since before Christmas. A pair of temporary paddles here should have allowed this pound to fill but due to leakage the levels have fluctuated by amazingly large amounts in astonishingly short times.

Subject to suitable water levels, the next few working parties will be tackling the leaks near Boxwell Spring Lock. Dredging will continue at Cerney Wick, followed by brickwork repairs as soon as weather permits. Other working parties will continue the towpath and bank improvements between Cerney Wick and the Spine Road.

In addition to the working parties shown in Diary Dates, there will probably be something going on somewhere on most weekends. Please contact me beforehand for details and locations.

EXPLORATION TRIP This year's attempt to navigate (on foot?) the uncharted reaches of the Thames & Severn Canal will take place on April 24th on part of the almost unexplored summit level. All sorts of unusual things may be lurking in the reeds so why not come along and see (only if suitable arrangements have been made for refreshment - Ed). Numbers may have to be limited so contact me soon if you want to risk coming.

Ken Burgin.

STROUDWATER WORKING PARTY & PLANT REPORT

Progress on the Stroudwater has been slow since my last report, partly due to the inclement weather, and several of the tasks which we had hoped to complete are still unstarted.

In the period before Christmas we concentrated on the continuing tree and undergrowth clearance, but we did manage to give the Dredger an extensive trial. Two members worked the Dredger continuously for a week under true restoration conditions and it performed faultlessly while much useful information was obtained.

Our current priority task is the preparation of the Ryeford Dredging Site. Work is in hand at the tip, building a silt trap and laying 50 metres of 300 mm. dia. land drain with an outfall into the canal. The materials are to hand and when this is completed, the arisings from the dredging can be tipped on the site.

We are now firmly established in the new Plant Shed and Compound, complete with wood burning stove and diesel generator for warmth and power. The generator was purchased with the assistance of the recent anonymous £500 donation. Already the first repaired machine, a dumper, has been rebuilt here and is in use on site, work having started on stripping down one of its brothers which also should soon be back at work. All it will require is a driver (I can only manage one!).

An instance of the recurring nature of maintenance has been the retrimming of the half mile of roadside hedge near Eastington at the request of the County Highways Department. In this we were aided by Bristol University Canal Club. The cutting back of this same hedge was our first task on the Stroudwater Canal.

As we must now capitalize on the Stroud District Council's recent decision to safeguard the canals, can I appeal to all those interested to come along and speed up our progress on site. (I know this is about the 86th time this has been mentioned in this issue, but it is important) All you need are old clothes and enthusiasm - we provide tools, transport if necessary, and direction.

Jon Willis.

Advertisement

FOR SALE - 1 Genuine T & S Canal Co. trade token, good condition, £15-00. Apply to Box No. 5, The Trow, 1 Riveredge, Framilode, Gloucester.

BOOK REVIEWS

EPHEMERA OF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT by Janice Anderson & Edmund Swinglehurst
Published by New Cavendish Books. Price £7.95 plus 50p postage and packing.

A beautifully-printed and illustrated book covering the whole range of collectibles relating to travel and transport, including tickets, labels, leaflets, receipts, wrappers, menus, stationery, bills of lading, brochures, maps, postcards, timetables, etc., etc.

There are separate chapters covering the general collection of such ephemera, stagecoaches and tollgates, inland and coastal waters including canals, railways, public road transport, aircraft, shipping, and holiday travel.

The book is approximately 11" x 8½" and its 96 pages incorporate copious illustrations in monochrome, plus a 16-page centre section in full colour and an attractive dust-jacket also in colour. The illustrations alone justify the price of the book, and whether one is a serious collector or just nostalgic for things past, it is a must for the bookshelf. Also an ideal birthday present!

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NARROW BOAT by L.T.C.Rolt. Paperback edition published by Eyre Methuen Ltd. Price £3.50 plus 40p postage and packing.

Rolt's classic book has already undergone at least six reprints since it was first published in 1944. The paperback edition was first published in 1978, and runs to 212 pages including many evocative black and white illustrations by Denys Watkins-Pitchford. The book is so well-known, and has been reviewed by so many experts, that there must be few people who are not aware of it. For newcomers to the canals and waterways scene, however, suffice it to say that the book no doubt started a revival of interest in the English waterways when first published, and is basically a most readable account of Rolt's journey, with his wife, in their narrow boat "Cressy", along some 400 miles of the Midlands waterways. If not already in your collection this is a chance to obtain it at a reasonable price.

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BACK DOOR BRITAIN by Anthony Burton. Published by Magnum Books. Price £1.25 plus 30p postage and packing.

This is another paperback edition, based on a hardback originally published in 1977 by Andre Deutsch Ltd. The book runs to just under 200 pages, with a centre section of excellent monochrome photographs, and an attractive coloured cover. It is a fascinating story of a 1000-mile journey which took the author through open country into the 'back doors' of towns and cities, hence the title. Nicely, and at times humorously written, and thoroughly recommended to all canal lovers, both arm-chair or practical.

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All the above books are available through our Sales Section (see elsewhere in this issue for address), or on our Sales Stalls at various venues through the Spring and Summer season.

WILLIAM DENYER GEORGE (Continued from previous issues)

In 1887 there was an enquiry to examine the possibility of improving communications by water between Birmingham and other cities including, in particular, Gloucester. Chaired by George Marris, Birmingham Councillor, it was known as the Ship Canal Committee. The Committee produced a scheme to rebuild the main canal links from Birmingham to the Trent, the Mersey, the Thames, and the Severn. Buying the canals was to cost £8-12 million; they would then be converted to take steamers of 600 tons for another £8-12 million. Ambitious indeed: the Committee's scheme was not adopted.

But the Committee may have had one outcome. For it is likely that, in connection with such a canal enquiry, William Denyer George would have come to know Councillor George Marris. Both families attended Carrs Lane Chapel, and George Suffield Marris - a son of Councillor Marris - and Mary Twining George did their good works together. It is said that while George gave evening lectures, Mary worked the lantern slides for him.*

On 5 April 1888 Mary married George Marris, at Carrs Lane Congregational Chapel. And so begins another story. Denny lived on until September 1919, and Annie his wife until 6 August 1925. Eric Denyer Marris, their grandson, remembers Annie and Denny as follows but says that "W.D. George was never called Denny in my hearing and I have always thought of him as William.

"About my grandmother Annie - I think she must have been very beautiful. We all loved her. She was petite and slim even in old age. William - loveable too but a restless, frustrated, fiery character, quarrelling too readily with his employers ever to gain the reward of his industry and high intelligence - cannot have been an easy man to live with.

"Aunt Florrie always overworked and 'put upon', with her domestic science teaching at King Edward's High School; Gertie trying to earn by coaching pupils for King Edward's entrance and scholarship; Eva unhappily married and dying of T.B; the boys Will and Joe fighting an uncivilised battle in the business world, appearing occasionally, but I don't think anyone knew where they lived when not visiting home; William worried about the canal; through all this Grannie seemed to me to sit, posed, poised, and serene, always gentle, always kind, always speaking quietly.

"How much she actually did herself I have no idea, but I cannot imagine the house carrying on without her. She was the quiet centre. In a way it all seemed to be for her; but she made no demands and seemed quite unselfish. I think perhaps she was just there and loved them all in a way which was basic to all their lives. Certainly tough Will and Joe would have sacrificed themselves utterly to prevent any harm to 'little mother'. It does not surprise me that William when he was courting would walk from Gloucester to Rodborough to see Annie, the governess in the big house half way up Rodborough hill. How on earth did they meet?

"They lived during my childhood in a house in Gough Road, at Edgbaston - semi-detached, biggish rooms, long narrow garden. William always bought the meat and poultry and brought it home, and brewed perry. No tobacco, no cards, no theatres allowed. When William retired they moved to a much smaller almost terrace house in Stirling Road, Edgbaston" (Eventually George Marris, previously the Birmingham Town Councillor, came to live in the same road).

"Later when Aunt Florrie, who earned and saved money, had established her cottage at Amberley (above Rodborough) on the edge of Minchinhampton Common, they all went to live there; Grannie, Grandfather and Gertie. (Florrie herself continued teaching for some while). All four of them died there.

* Eric well remembers his father's lectures, which George continued to give up to at least 1900: "Nansen's journey towards the pole; Livingstone in Africa; and some moving comics which we thought marvellous. He used lime-light heated by gas from a bag with weights on it. It fizzed alarmingly".

To be continued

READERS' LETTERS

1, Riveredge,
Framilode,
Gloucester.

Dear Editor,

1982 Sponsored Walk

I hope all your readers will also study the walk booklet which you are sending out with this issue of the Trow. As the lead dog who, in 1980/81 with Michael Reynolds, sniffed out the route the week before on the Committee Walk to ensure that Dillon and Chester had a clear run, I am writing to say that I will be carrying out this vital task again on May the 2nd so that the third member of the team, young Jason, will be able to carry even more of your money this year. As we dogs have to work together, I have decided not to ask for sponsorship this time but to urge anyone who cannot come on the walk to support Jason instead. Help him to really show the two-legged walkers the way home!

Yours faithfully,
Skipper

(Canine Section Secretary and Acting Fund Raising Organiser).

Opposite: Nineteenth century trade card advertising an Oxford Brewer, Hall & Co., whose products were available through the T & S Canal Wharf Manager at Latton, it would appear. Did the brews come from Oxford by river and canal? Almost certainly they did. What do we know about William Yeates? And look at those prices!

Barry Greenaway, a Swindon member who is a collector of coins, found this piece of ephemera in a friend's collection. The original was folded and produced in bulk. Each local agent would then have had a batch over-printed with his own address. Date c 1880.

The very small print at the bottom of the front cover, top right, reads "Printers, Sir Joseph Causton & Sons Limited, London".

We have enlisted the talents of another member who has re-drawn part of the decorative coloured front to improve the chances of reproduction.

ANY OLD PAINT?

When moving into our new building, we discovered a number of old tins of oil-based paint. In a fit of inspired genius, we mixed the contents together and found to our surprise that we had two gallons of paint ideal for use as undercoat.

So - if you have any odd tins of oil-based paint you have no use for, we would be only too glad to take them off your hands. Contact either Jon Willis or Alan Jones, who will arrange collection. Of course, new paint will do.....

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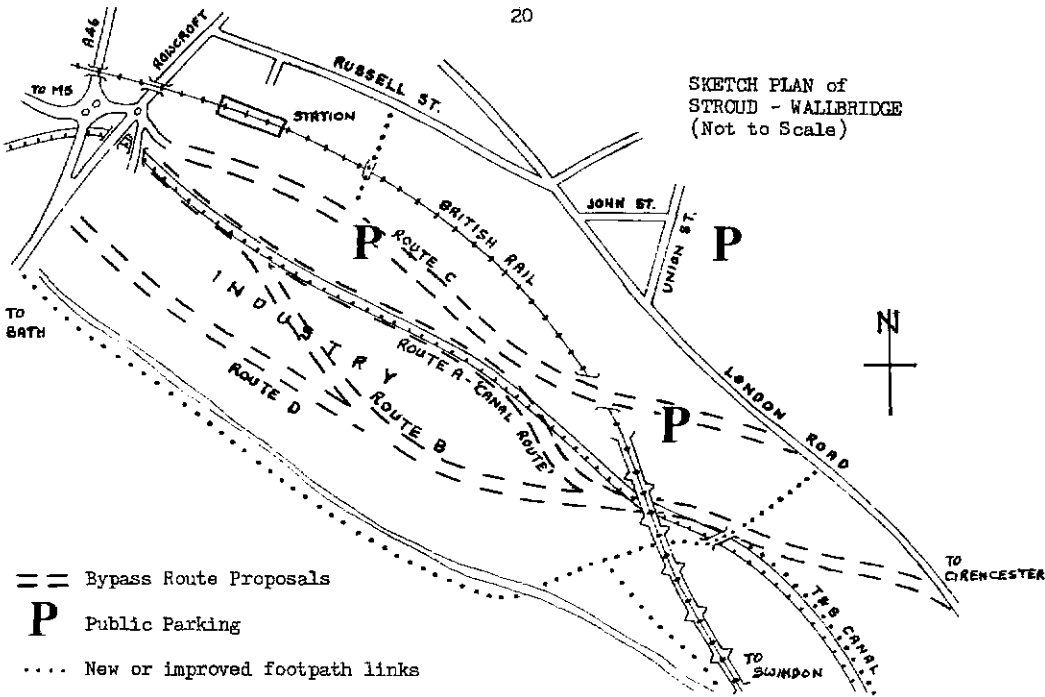
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B do. do.	1/2
IPA India Pale Ale	1/6
Ⓢ Oxford Eight (2 years Old)	2/-
SS Single Stout	1/-
DS Double Stout	1/6

Supplied in Casks of 4½ Gallons and upwards.



ROUTE SUGGESTED BY THE TRUST FOR STROUD EAST-WEST BYPASS

The route for the Stroud East-West Bypass suggested by the Trust comprises for the most part Route B of Gloucestershire County Council's proposals as submitted to the public participation exhibition in the summer of 1981, copies of which were sent out with Trow No. 35, September 1981.

This route at its eastern end commences in London Road, passes through the allotment gardens and under the railway viaduct using the span presently occupied by the Thames & Severn Canal. From this point it deviates towards the southern side of the industrial area and emerges at Wallbridge on the south side of Butts Builders Merchants. As this route will require the demolition of a building at present used for cement storage, a certain amount of re-organisation of the yard will be required. However, the removal of the overbridge which crosses the yard, together with its approaches, could well result in an overall improvement to the facilities.

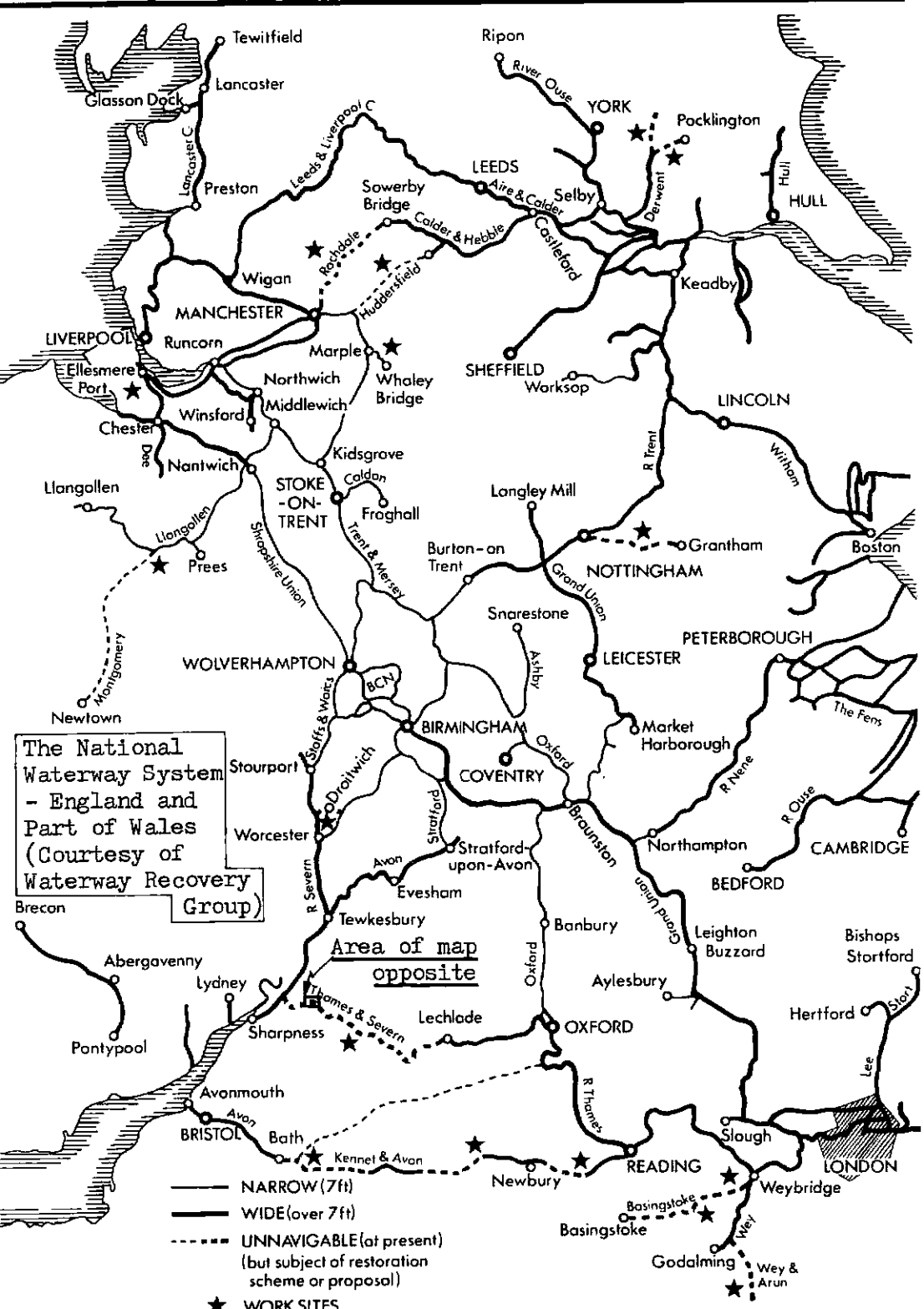
It is suggested that the western termination of the Bypass should be at a large triangular-shaped traffic island, using the existing roads where possible to cut costs.

Returning again to the viaduct, it is proposed that the canal is diverted to pass through an arch further east than at present. It would then regain its existing route to Wallbridge Lock passing beneath the Bypass by means of a new bridge immediately south of the railway viaduct. A large area remains for industrial use between the canal and the Bypass and space is available to landscape for recreational use on each side of the viaduct.

Similar possibilities have been indicated independently in a similar scheme prepared by Mr. J. Chetham as part of a design study in connection with a Post Graduate University Course.

Trust Civil Engineer.

Richard Veevers.



The National Waterway System - England and Part of Wales (Courtesy of Waterway Recovery Group)

Area of map opposite

- NARROW (7ft)
- WIDE (over 7ft)
- - - UNNAVIGABLE (at present) (but subject of restoration scheme or proposal)
- ★ WORK SITES

50/50 AUCTION
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CONTRIBUTORS;
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