

# Trow

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

No. 81

SUMMER 1993

50p



Cotswold Canals  
Trust

# Cotswold Canals Trust

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HONORARY CIVIL ENGINEER: Roger House

THE COTSWOLD CANALS TRUST IS A REGISTERED CHARITY AND ITS AIMS ARE:-

1. The preservation of the line of the Cotswold Canals (Stroudwater Navigation and Thames & Severn Canal) and promotion of their use for recreation.
2. Promotion of the towpath as a long distance Right of Way.
3. Promotion of the restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal from Saul Junction to Hope Mill Lock.
4. Promotion of the restoration of the Thames & Severn Canal from Inglesham to the Cotswold Water Park.
5. Ultimate restoration of the Cotswold Canals to navigation between Saul Junction and the River Thames.

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## Trow

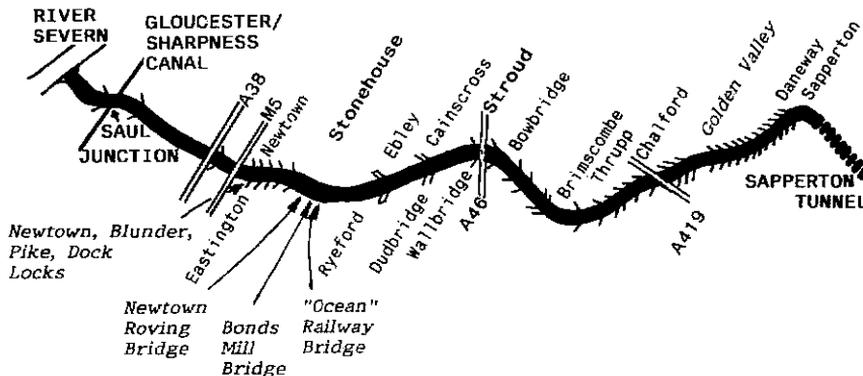
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<< STROUDWATER NAVIGATION ◆ THAMES & SEVERN CANAL >>

THE HISTORIC ROUTE



# Reflections of the General Secretary

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Commander NICOLAS WRIGHT

To continue from where I left you last time. Are green shoots banned? Politically this appears so but here, along the canal they abound, and with them of course the beginnings of this year's new wildlife population. We pride ourselves on the resurrection of wetland wildlife, one of our chief requirements for reopening the navigation to general use, but this is not necessarily recognized as "conservation" per se. Loss of fresh water habitats elsewhere shows that our canal, as a multi purpose amenity, can help provide space for wildlife so man made and maintained waterways show that navigation and conservation can live together. Opening up the towing path as part of our long term programme also shows the benefits that can accrue for social, economic and environmental usage, and that a semi natural and man-managed linear area is better than a morass of tangled weed and stunted vegetation which, regretfully, can still be found along parts of the canal.

Our new sponsorship booklet, "Rescuing and Restoring the Cotswold Canals", backs up our appeal letters to Charitable Trusts, industrial businesses and individuals. It has been rewritten by the Trust from its successful predecessor but aims now to enlarge the straight restoration theme to rescuing canal structure and fabric. As 1993 is Industrial Heritage Year we are endeavouring to draw attention to the sorry state of locks, weirs and associated canal related artifacts where trees, saplings and brambles have become established and in places have already caused considerable damage. A particular area of concern is within the upper stretches of the Golden Valley, where structural damage is becoming a real problem.

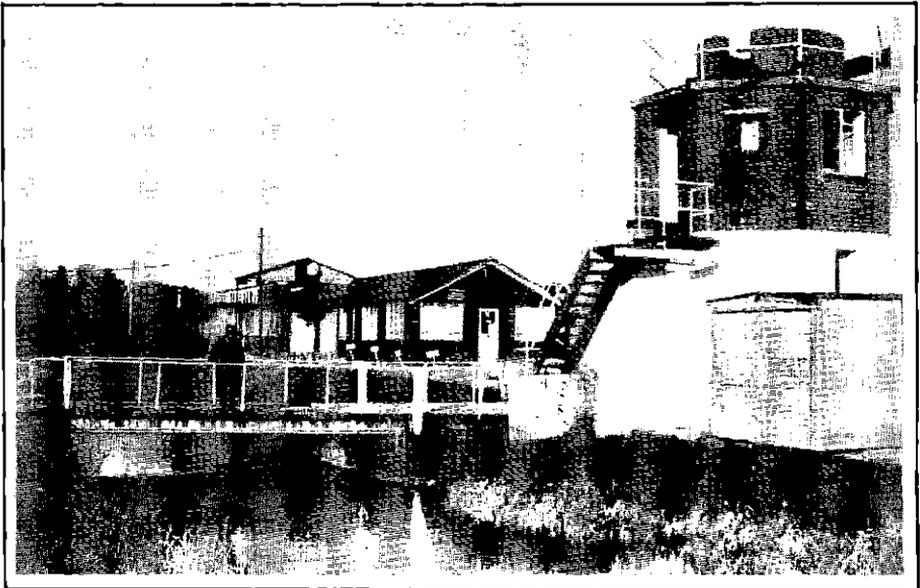
In an effort to overcome this, a three year programme is being drawn up for the Trust by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Management to cover works between Whitehall Bridge and Sapperton, concentrating on the six locks (Upper Daneway not included) but also incorporating other canal structures, the line of the canal and sideponds. The land here is owned by the Bathurst Estate with the Nature Reserve leased to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Thus our work needs to be a well coordinated effort involving volunteers from both our Trust and the Wildlife Trust, and, we hope, BTCV and the Stroud Valleys Project, working mainly between November and February. The three year programme will allow working on two lock sites per year which should be within the scope of the volunteer working parties, but will also prevent large scale detrimental impact on local wildlife which a more concentrated effort might have caused.

Elsewhere along the canal, work in the west concentrates at Eastington, primarily at Dock Lock where excavation of masses of silt and other rubble is complete. Now partial rebricking of the main lock chamber and approach walls can begin. At Pike Lock the Stroud Job Creation

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team is completing a previous rebricking project before moving across the road to Dock Lock.

Our efforts to extend navigation beyond the Roving Bridge are still thwarted by the trans-canal water pipe just above water level, and then by Bonds Mill Swing Bridge (photo below). Here the Trust, acting on behalf of the Company of Proprietors, has recently issued contract documents for the replacement of the old swing bridge by a new lift bridge. An exciting project for the summer although actual progress will depend greatly upon funding from outside sources. We very much welcome early donations from British Telecom and other Trusts in support of the Bridge Appeal.



In the east, concentration of effort has been on the Dig Deep site at Boxwell Spring. Here energetic working parties have made great progress with the rebuild, so good in fact that we hope to start the next lock in this series, Humpback, by early next year. A Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) summer camp in July will also be working at Boxwell Spring and we hope that further WRG efforts may be harnessed by a mini "Big Dig" in September which will involve towing path and track clearance between South Cerney and Cerney Wick. This could involve up to 250 people; care to come and join in?

The outcome of the Latton Bypass Inquiry is still eagerly awaited, not only by us but also by land owners and local people. Although actual road construction is some years ahead, there will inevitably be much planning and general canal work to be undertaken in the area whichever way the decision goes. Similarly, we await with interest the

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report for Thames Region NRA by Atkins Water concerning strategic water transfer, and the possible involvement of the canal in any future schemes. The interim report is currently being studied, not by us, so we will have to await the full published report before making our own comments.

W.S. Atkins is also involved with the technical survey of the canal track and water supplies for the canal between the Ocean and Sapperton Tunnel. This report will be presented to members of Stroud District Council, who commissioned the survey, in late May or early June at an open meeting so we hope that many local Trust members will be able to attend.

Our Local Authorities continue to play a major part in supporting the restoration effort, in many cases financially but also within the newly formed Management Liaison Group. Here the Trust is seen to be spearheading initiatives on the ground supported by the County and District Councils. As part of these initiatives we need to produce both a revised Five Year Plan and a supporting Business Plan to study overall objectives and intermediate targets, together with a work programme and means of achieving it. All about resources, management and funding - an interesting exercise!

The Local Authorities are now taking the initiative over Derelict Land Grants (DLG) as their ability to gain repayment is much greater than the Trust's. Despite our success in obtaining a DLG for the initial survey of the Ocean Railway Bridge, we can only claim 50% of the overall cost, whereas the Local Authority can achieve financial advantages with central government not available to the Trust. We will, of course, continue to support the long term DLG programme.

Elsewhere, we are looking at interpretation along the canal with proposals for new panels at key public locations. Although the RoyScot Trust panels have done an excellent job since established in 1990, the new panels will be of lectern design, thus less obtrusive but carrying the same type of information.

Have you been watching Clive Gunnell on HTV? Did you enjoy the ten programmes? It has certainly attracted many people down to the canal; people asking where can we find this and that, or can we buy a copy of the video. The latter question we will be able to answer quite soon, but we also understand that the programme may be rescreened in the Autumn. If out of the HTV area, why not ask your local ITV company to show it, particularly if in the Central TV area.

Just a year ago we set up the canal office here in Cirencester, and just a year ago the Prince of Wales visited the canal. How time flies! Now with increasing fundraising and management roles we have plenty to keep us busy. Nevertheless, we look forward to visitors dropping in; if in the area give us a ring to see whether we will be in as quite a lot of time is inevitably spent in the field.

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## Trust Anniversary Dinner

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The 21st Anniversary Dinner will be held on Friday 2nd July at Stonehouse Court Hotel. The hotel is alongside the Stroudwater Navigation near St Cyr's Church at Stonehouse, three miles west of Stroud. The hotel was featured on Clive Gunnell's HTV programme "Between Two Rivers".

This is quite relevant because Clive Gunnell will be one of the after-dinner speakers. Those who have witnessed Clive's enthusiasm on the programme will surely want to see him "in the flesh" and those who haven't seen the programme should come anyway!

David Stevenson, another excellent speaker, is Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association and will also speak, in what is bound to be an entertaining style. Bruce Hall will also be there to speak as Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust.

The Dinner has been organised for members of the Trust and with the hotel's excellent reputation and the strong programme of speakers, it is expected that all places will soon be taken. A booking form is enclosed with this TROW. Price per ticket is £14.50. Bookings should be made (with your remittance) as soon as possible to Chris Jones, The Courts, 27 Walton Road, Clevedon, Avon, BS21 6AE

## Thanks to Our Donors

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We are most grateful to the following organisations who have made donations to the Trust during the last quarter.

Courage Charitable Trust  
Woodroffe Benton Foundation  
Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust  
Manchester Ship Canal Company  
Scouloudi Foundation  
Countryside Commission  
British Telecom  
UK2000 Grant Aid  
Company of Proprietors  
Thrupp Canal Cruising Club  
Lady Hind Trust  
Stroud District Council  
Department of the Environment  
Inland Waterways Association  
- West County Branch (bricks "in kind")

We thank them all.

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# Dig Deep

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Co-ordinator NEIL RITCHIE

**February 13-14** Kent & East Sussex Restoration Group (KESCRG) arrived for their first visit to Boxwell Spring on a cold but dry weekend. They set to with a will, installing shuttering in readiness for ready-mixed concrete due the following weekend as the foundation of the new nearside chamber wall. Much stone cleaning and cutting back of landslides was necessary following the January visit of the London Waterways Recovery Group (London WRG) in an effort to stabilise the backfill and leave a sound surface for the concrete. Meanwhile, a lorry had arrived complete with 20' steel container. This will be our site storage and tea room for the next year or so. The landowners had kindly given permission for it to be sited discretely behind a hedge next to the work site. Unfortunately the Hiab crane on the lorry wasn't quite long enough to reach right into the chosen position - enter Eddie with his Landrover..... With four wheel drive attached to one end and Hiab crane lifting at the other, they managed to hoist and pull the container into position. Thanks Eddie!

South Cerney Village Hall was voted a huge success as far as accommodation was concerned, once the heating programme had been sorted out. It must be the first time these volunteers had slept in a thatched property.



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**February 20-21.** Newbury Working Party Group (NWPG) hardly had time to don hard hats and wellies before the ready-mix lorry was on site. For those who have seen the approach track to Boxwell Spring Lock, you will understand our reluctance to allow a fully laden lorry of this sort to come straight down the track, owing to the danger of subsidence. We were prepared to take the dumper up and down for the first half hour to relieve the load, but by the time the first dumper load had been deposited the lorry had followed right on behind and was ready to pour almost before we were ready to receive it! By tea-break time it was effectively all over bar the shouting, and a fine job it looked. Much heavy lifting of concrete blocks from their delivery point in Bow Wow Lane to the site followed, resulting in stacks both by the towpath and in the bottom of the chamber by the time the weekend was over. On Sunday the shuttering was removed from the new foundation and the site was left in such a clean and safe condition that much praise has been heard from local residents and visitors passing through.

**March 20-21.** London WRG were back for their second visit and found the site much progressed since January. They wasted no time in erecting a gantry of scaffold poles over the bottom gate recesses to give barrow access into the chamber. A large concrete mixer and a water bowser had been hired in for the weekend and were soon in use as the first part of a chain gang of workers began mixing. The first barrow was lowered to the "bottom man" who wheeled it along a nifty barrow run of scaffold planks to the first block-laying trio. The second barrow went straight on to the next block-laying trio, ad infinitum. A whole course was laid over the two days, which is no mean feat when you consider that each block weighs about half a hundred weight. More blocks had been delivered since the February visit and had to be transferred to the site. Is there no end to this?

**17-18 April** London WRG have really found their niche since they have now set new standards in block-laying (one and a half courses in a weekend) can this record be broken we ask ourselves? A major set-back was neatly overcome when the water bowser was found to contain not water, but diesel fuel. While vessels were swapped, Providence had supplied us with a limited supply of clean water in the bottom of the lock chamber, following a very wet week.

This was the last official visit from DIG DEEP until September but we hope that work will continue at this site over the Summer and that progress will be made before the Autumn/Winter programme begins.

**Special Thanks** are due to Mrs Cook of South Cerney Village Hall, Mr Mould of Lower Mill and Gaynor Cowley of Siddington Village Hall for their patience and help as work has progressed.

# The Battle of Dock Lock

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Report by KEN BAILEY

The battle of Dock Lock was finally won in the first couple of weeks of April when the last few bucket fulls of infill were removed. Although the work was started it wasn't until the end of January before the infill started to come out of the lock chamber at any speed with work taking place on up to four days a week when the weather allowed. The early stages of the work, apart from getting the 360° excavator into the chamber, involved construction of a temporary road from the towpath down on to the canal bed and then into the chamber itself. The road was constructed from some of the large blocks of concrete dug out in the early stages together with some thirty old lock gate timbers and about twenty railway sleepers.

With a solid road constructed, the Sykes pump to remove the excess water, the 360° excavator, the International excavator, the Trust's dumper, and a second one borrowed for a weekend, the team removed about 600 tons of mud, concrete and reinforcing steel in just over eight weeks. The biggest problem was the lack of space to operate together with the size of some of the chunks of concrete which had to be shifted - some weighing a couple of tonnes!

Even with relatively good access to the lock bottom we still had several problems; a broken halfshaft on the dumper, three punctures to the dumpers and one on the 360° - all as a result of old nails in buried pieces of timber.

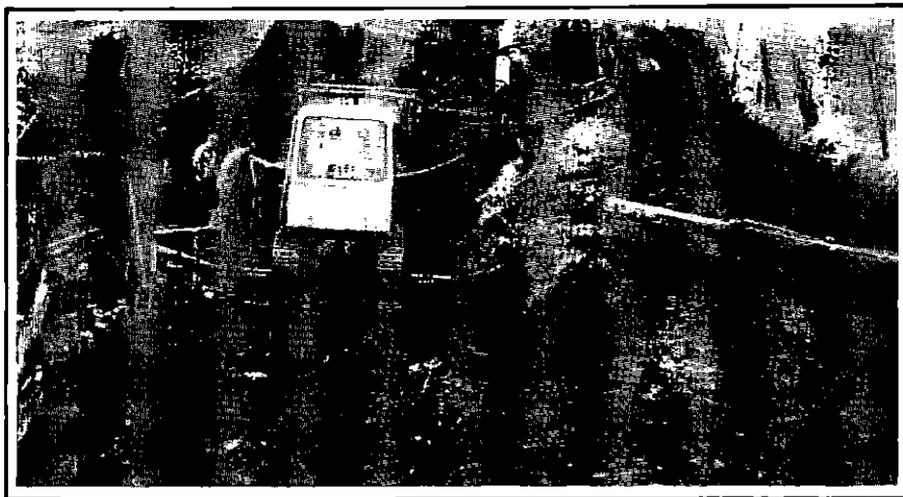
While working we had a couple of interesting visits. The first was from our insurance inspector who checked the 360° out in the mud and restricted space. The second was from a plant training instructor who was most surprised to see the conditions in which we were working and the progress being made.

Most of the material which has been removed is currently stacked down by Meadow Mill weir where it is slowly drying. When dry it will join that which has already been spread and compacted along the towpath from the weir back up to Dock Lock. This has already improved the towpath significantly forming a good wide track which will allow movement of building materials back into the site.

The chamber can now be scaffolded and the brickwork, which is actually in very good condition for the most part, can be repaired or rebuilt as required. Once the chamber is complete, attention can then be focused on draining the pound above, removing the dam and rebuilding the wing walls and banks along the section above.

Thanks again to the team who have put in a considerable number of hours each weekend, including Steve Court who has nearly been going round in circles (but space didn't permit!) in the 360°. Bob and Fred who drove the dumpers quite a few miles, Olive and also Doug who

kept the pump clear and dug the mud from the difficult corners, and John, Tony, Bill and Ian who helped lay the "road" plus of course Dave Cook, our neighbour who supervised, and provided additional chains and assistance when required.



**DOCK  
LOCK**

*ABOVE: The new "road" nears completion.*

*BELOW: An empty chamber awaits the bricklaying gang.*



# East Enders

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Report by ROBIN HALLIDAY

This report covers a period which can be divided into two halves, the first of which covers the start of the year up to the first week in March when we had water at the tunnel. The second half brings us up to date and has been relatively dry with water levels falling in the Kings Reach and the tunnel itself.

For the past few years the Thames End Branch has been accustomed to having sufficient water to support boat trips through the Easter Holiday when the oolitic limestone has maintained a reasonable, if unpredictable, level. With a level of one foot or less on the gauge, our money-spinning Easter trips were a non-starter this year. All this when the trip boat rota was full of eager volunteers. Unfortunately we are at the mercy of the elements.

The lack of water has come with the most unfortunate timing following as it does the excellent footage of the tunnel on Clive Gunnell's "Between Two Rivers". The Tunnel House Inn has certainly benefited from the publicity, and members of the Branch have been putting on their thinking caps in an effort to come up with ways of prolonging the tripping season using other means of motive power in order to take our visitors into the Stygian depths to view one of the engineering marvels of the 18th century. No firm conclusions have been reached but there have been no lack of imaginative ideas. So far, turning procedures have been updated so that the boat may be turned easily within the tunnel without using the motor.

## Members' Work Parties

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The winter working parties were very successful and more are planned for the summer season.

**Sunday 27th June at 9:30am - Siddington towpath tidy-up.**

Meet at the top of the flight of locks by the playing fields. The 1992 Canamble had great difficulty in negotiating this section of towpath from Siddington to South Cerney. Gloucestershire County Council responded to our plea for help and made a good job of removing 2 metre high nettles and brambles last winter. However, there is bound to be a lot of summer growth to hinder the '93 Canamble.

**Sunday 19th September at 9:30am - Cricklade towpath tidy-up.**

Meet at the Kempford turning from the A419 Cricklade bypass. More summer growth clearance on the public footpath from the A419 to Eisey before the '93 Canamble.

# West Enders

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Report by KEN BAILEY

Apart from the work on Dock Lock, a number of other smaller projects have been undertaken at the West End. Reed cutting continued up to the middle of March on the section from Newtown Roving Bridge to Hoffmann's Dam. A fairly major impact was made on this section prior to the nesting season with the channel being cleared to a good twenty-five foot width for most of the length. It was interesting to note the arrival of the swans when cutting was in progress. They appeared to very much enjoy the food being stirred up by the boat and quite happily followed us up and down the canal on several occasions feeding as they went! Hopefully the autumn should see the remaining part of this section brought back under control and the area towards the Ship Inn cleared as well.

The dredger received some attention at the start of March, having its engine, side tanks and digging arm removed and returned to the yard at Eastington. Lifting and transport were provided by Mike Hynd who also attempted to lift the main hull out of the water. Unfortunately it proved to be slightly too heavy, so Mike had to return it to the water. It is hoped that another attempt can be made to move it, either removing more parts such as the front pivot, main winch and hydraulic oil or that closer access to the water can be obtained. Once back to Eastington it can all be cleaned down, re-painted, reassembled with a replacement engine and once again be put back to work.

Three of our younger members lead by Ian Mulford have started the task of restoring our second reed cutter, stripping it down, cleaning off the old paint work and re-painting the bottom.

An Employment Action (EA) Group is currently working in Pike Lock doing repair work to the lock walls. This is work which was supposed to have been carried out by local builders, Ravenhill and Englefield, when they did the rebuilding work a couple of years ago.

The railway group (GWR) have finally reappeared on the scene, after several months gap, to remove the old workshop by Blunder Lock. This hopefully should have finally disappeared by the time you read this and then the area can be tidied up, levelled and grassed over.

At the end of February the dynamic forces of the Thames End were in action in the west at Pike Lock, Eastington. Those members familiar with the Jones Crane were able to brush-up on their half-forgotten skills, and the ex ARP Fire-Wardens of our number were able to get the Trust pumps into action for good purpose. The brick-work and silt were exposed once again so that the Employment Action Scheme team could see their next task before them. Daunting no doubt, but not in the same league as their next job at Dock Lock, the next down the flight!

# Cotswold Canals Challenge

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## Report by "A COMPETITOR"

At Ryeford Double Lock some Bradford-on-Avon paddlers were running with K1 canoes on their shoulders in hot pursuit of each other. It was here that a mother was heard to remark to a bystander "I'm sure these are the same ones my teenage daughter ogled last year".

It was Sunday 21st March and the venue was the Third Annual COTSWOLD CANALS CHALLENGE. The 9.2 mile course was between Eastington and Stroud. The canoeing section was about 8.7 miles including two portages totalling 1.5 miles; the running course was about half a mile long.

The "CHALLENGE" was to complete the course without outside assistance; it was open to all ages and both sexes. Senior classes were 14-18 years, 19-34 years and 35 years and over. They attempted the same course but were allowed assistance on the long portage by Ebley Mill. Juniors attempted a shortened course of 4.2 miles including an assisted portage of 0.75 miles.

This year the Challenge and Senior competitors started and finished at Blunder Lock, Eastington. Juniors started at Far Hill car park in Stroud but also finished at Blunder Lock. Six female entrants competed. Three ladies (Val Thomas, Susan Gullick and Shelly Wright) from the ADJ Canoe Club did well in their classes. Jenny Whitmore from Stroud Valley Canoe Club made very good time in the Under 14's. Perhaps next year there will be more ladies.

The weather was dull and overcast with chilly intermittent drizzle, but the rain meant little to the many Juniors who took a ducking. Neither did it matter to the Senior who took a boat full of canal water when he shot the weir or the lady who assured that the water had come "just above the waist". Notwithstanding the weather, everyone had a great day out in the Cotswold countryside whether competitor, bystander or support crew. Members of the latter were kept busy supplying some of the younger exhausted, but exuberant, paddlers with hot coffee in addition to encouraging their particular competitor along the course or enjoying the spectacle of the opposition sliding, with muddy bottom, into the canal water at one of the more difficult portages.

Prizes were presented by Peter Gadsden, Chairman of the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation and newly appointed Vice-President of the Canal Trust. There was a warm round of applause for all 61 canoeists, from the youngest Luke Hefferman (10), through to the most senior Ron Ellis (63). Congratulations to Simon Dark who took the honours in the CHALLENGE for the third time. He and his club must find it a good training race for the Devizes to Westminster course.

# Challenge Results

Times shown in Hours:Minutes:Seconds.

CC = Canoe Club

Competitors were allowed help with the portage between Ebley Mill and Ryeferd in all categories

EXCEPT THE CHALLENGE

## THE CHALLENGE (Completing whole course unaided)

1. SIMON DARK	1.12.33	Bradford on Avon CC
2. RICHARD LEWIS	1.16.14	Bradford on Avon CC
3. DAVID JONES	2.10.43	Croesyceilog CC
TEAM: ADJ CC	7.44.10	VAL THOMAS:MARK WHITE ANDREW SPENCER

## 14-18 YEARS

1. ADAM KEAR	2.04.16	Bradford on Avon CC
2. GAVIN LEWIS	2.06.48	Stroud Valley CC
3. DUNCAN THORNE	2.12.12	Topsham Sea Scouts
TEAM: 1st HATHERLEY SCOUTS	6.53.10	MICHAEL BAILEY STEPHEN MILSON GILES CARDEW

## 19-34 YEARS

1. MARK ESCOTT	1.25.59	Bradford on Avon CC
2. JOHN ESCOTT	1.32.10	Bradford on Avon CC
3. PETER RUSSELL	1.53.04	Stroud Valley CC

FASTEST LADY: 2.56.53 SUSAN GJLLICK ADJ CC

## 35 YEARS +

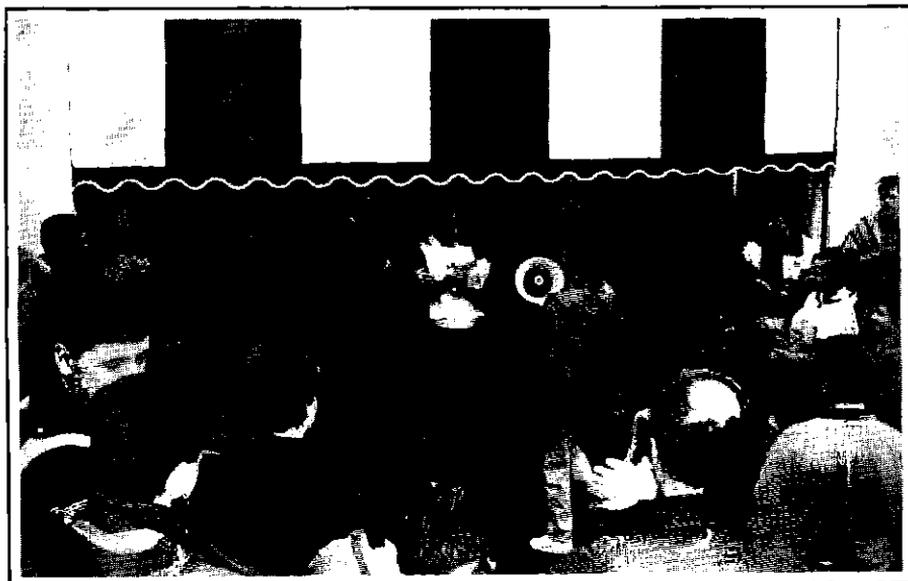
1. RON ELLIS	2.00.48	ADJ Canoe Club
2. TERRY HEFFERMAN	2.03.54	Stroud Valley CC
3. ADRIAN DARK	2.05.13	Bradford on Avon CC

FASTEST LADY: 2.41.22 SHELLEY WRIGHT ADJ CC

## UNDER 14 (Short Course)

1. MARC BENSON	0.55.23	Croesyceilog CC
2. LUKE HEFFERMAN	1.09.41	Stroud Valley CC
3. ALEXANDER WRIGHT	1.10.53	7th Cheltenham Scouts
TEAM: WESTBURY ON SEVERN SCOUTS	4.42.19	SPIKE STEWART, GRAHAM GODWIN, RICHARD BOWLES
FASTEST LADY	1.13.34	JENNY WHITMORE, Stroud Valley CC

*The presentation ceremony. Sheltering under the new Trust Marquee are Peter Gadsden, John Westlake and Bruce Hall.*



# In the Pink!

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Report by KEN BURGIN

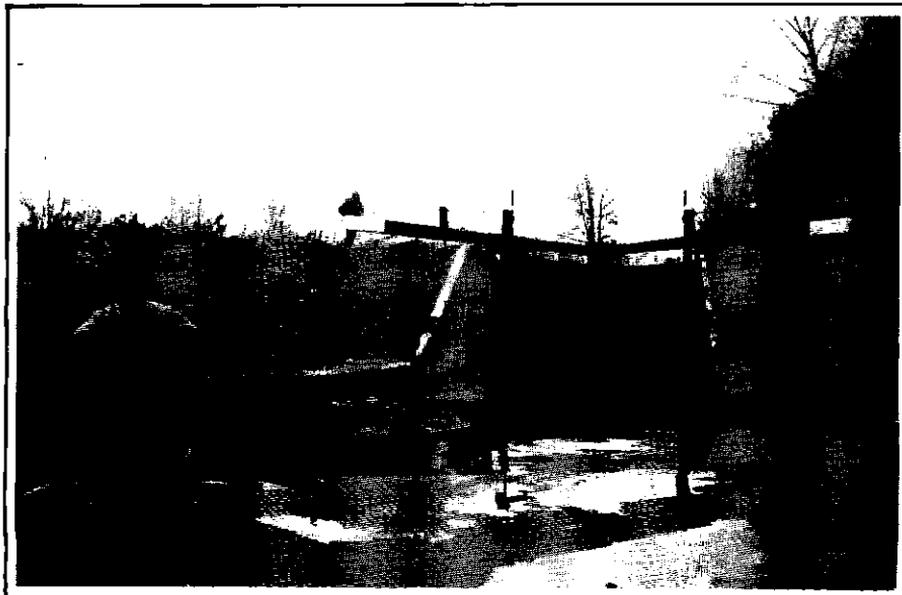
There has been a serious outbreak of Pink Duck-weed on the Pike and Blunder Lock pounds this year. In the sunshine, the effect has been so startling that pictures have appeared on the front of local newspapers as well as on television.

In fact, this Pink Duck-weed is last years ordinary green duck-weed, the leaves of which have thickened and developed a purplish fringe. The overall effect is that the canal appears to be covered by a thick pinky brown carpet. It has been so convincing that a few dogs have even tried to walk on it only to find the rug pulled out from under their feet, leaving them in very cold water!

Observers have been further confounded by its apparent ability to disappear and re-appear. Here again, there is a simple explanation: the wind tends to blow the carpet to one end of the pound or the other, leaving long stretches of clear water. If there is no wind, it spreads out to cover most of the surface.

I suspect that the duck-weed will once again turn green as the weather warms up, so if you want to see the spectacle you will have to hurry!

*Ken Bailey on his way to cut reed at Bonds Mill. Note the duck-weed which is broken up here by water released from Newtown Lock.*



# "Between Two Rivers" - A Review

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Review by DAVID JOWETT

Clive Gunnell's journey "Between Two Rivers" is complete and TV viewers in the HTV area will have made their own judgements on the ten part series.

I heard comments made by more than one Trust member suggesting that the programmes showed too little of the canal. I immediately referred them to the introduction of each programme when Clive said that the journey followed the route of the canals. He went on to say "On our way along the route, we'll be visiting the towns and villages and, of course, talking to the local people about their lives". This then was a journey which took in the canal-side interests as well as the canal itself and I think the balance was about right.

The canal interest was served well by use of old photographs, mostly supplied by Michael Handford. When combined with the locals' reminiscences they helped to bring the history of our canals alive. In addition to a comprehensive list of names supplied by the Trust at a meeting in early 1992, Clive had managed to track down even more people who had a connection with the canals earlier this century.

The first seven programmes covered the western half of the canal, an imbalance created because more features are found at that end. The last few programmes tended to concentrate on the towns and villages near the eastern stretches which are mainly over open countryside and are privately owned.

On several occasions Clive questioned the wisdom of restoration, preferring the canal line to be left to nature. However, we all know that it would not stay that way for long, before it became completely choked with brambles and the like. Sensitive restoration to navigation and subsequent management have been shown to serve nature best of all. In contrast Clive often congratulated the Trust on its work and in summing up at the end of the last programme, he wished the restorers every success in their long term aim of full restoration

As an "insider", it is difficult to make an objective assessment of the series, but minor quibbles aside, I thoroughly enjoyed it. What is certain is the impact the programmes have made. As each programme was shown, then that section of canal became busy with viewers who wanted to see for themselves. With regard to the raised profile our canals have received, just ask Nick and Maureen in the office who dealt with the increase in enquiries!

A book inspired by the series gives an introduction to the route followed. It is available from Chris Jones for £4.50 (plus P & P) - see further details on the Sales page.

# IWA Canal Clean-Up & Thanks to the IWA!

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Report by DAVID JOWETT

The third annual IWA Canal Clean-Up weekend took place at the end of March when the Trust teamed-up with the IWA Gloucestershire Branch to help with the effort.

The area tackled was at Wallbridge, close to the centre of Stroud. The main objective was to open up the towpath between Far Hill car park and Wallbridge Upper Lock. Part of this path was reinstated during the first clean-up weekend back in 1990 but a longer section, which passes Wallbridge Lower Lock, had not been used for many years.

This was the first section to be tackled on Saturday. In a surprisingly short time the path emerged from a tangle of vicious brambles as the volunteers set to. By the end of the day the towpath was clear. On Sunday a small amount of clearing up was done before a general tidy-up was undertaken in the more public section in front of the Stroud & Swindon Building Society Head Office.

The weekend was a great success, not only because the objective was achieved, but also because we attracted plenty of publicity. On Saturday, the Inland Waterways Association (Gloucestershire Branch) presented the Trust with a cheque for £1,500 to further the restoration of the Cotswold Canals. Both this presentation and the work party were featured in the local newspapers

Thanks to the IWA Gloucestershire Branch for the donation - we can assure them that it will be put to good use!

## Please!

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Would those who:

Drink a canned drink and throw the can in the canal,  
Read a newspaper and leave it on the ground in the car park,  
Enjoy a take-away, eat it and throw the remains out of the car,  
Take the dog for a walk and let it poo all over the towpath,  
or throw stones and bricks into the canal and locks,

please stop.

Would those who:

Like to walk by the canal to see the boats and wildlife,  
Come to see how much work has been done since their last visit,  
Remember how it all was years ago when it all still worked,  
Come for a boat trip or to volunteer to help the restoration,  
Bring the children for an outing on a Sunday afternoon,  
or sit a while to watch the world go by,

come again soon.

## A New Leaflet - in Full Colour

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The Trust has produced a new information leaflet to update the cream-coloured example that you may have seen in use over the last four years.

"Cotswold Canals - Between Two Rivers" is in full colour with an autumnal photo of Coates Portal on the front panel. Two other panels give details about the Trust with a Membership Form and Banker's Order. When folded out, the inside is predominantly green and features five colour photographs; Blunder Lock, St Cyr's Church, Nutshell Bridge, Chalford Roundhouse and Coates Roundhouse. Each photo is keyed into a full length map showing the canal route, roads, main towns and villages.

We must thank the Countryside Commission who half-funded the leaflet. Thanks also to Steve Marshfield and Peter Chadwick who provided the photographs. Steve's work can also be seen in guides published by Stroud District Council.

If you want to see the new leaflet, watch out for the Sales Stand. We would be very pleased to supply small numbers by post (to help you recruit new members!?). Please send a self-addressed envelope measuring at least 22cm by 11cm, stating how many you require, to David Jowett, 11 Upper Leazes, Stroud, Glos., GL5 1LA.

## Review of the Year & AGM

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The Review of the Year and AGM will take place on Saturday 26th June, somewhat earlier in the year. The date has gradually slipped over the years and a special attempt has been made to bring the AGM closer to the year end in March. Your official notice should accompany this TROW.

This year we return to the splendid Council Chamber at Ebley Mill near Stroud. The official business of the AGM will be quite short and will be followed by the Review of the Year. Various Trust Council officers will give a summary of work undertaken, current plans and up-to-date news, all performed with the aid of slides!

This will be a good opportunity to put a question to the Trust Council or perhaps purchase that item you always wanted from the Sales Stand. As usual, refreshments will be provided to round off what should be a good afternoon.

# Canamble '93

Walk Leader RICHARD ATTWOOD

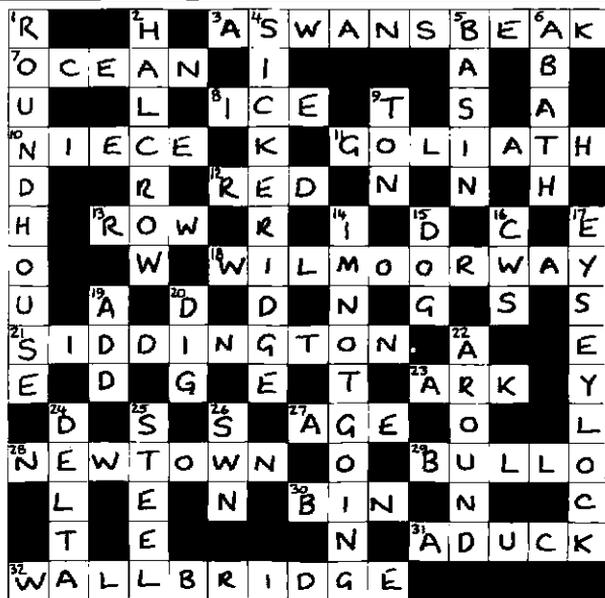
The Canambles are already upon us! The first has gone but there are still three chances to join in. There will be a charge on each walk of £2 for each adult. At the end of each walk, a bus will take you back to the start.

**CANAMBLE 93 PART TWO** Sunday 6th June - 9:30am - 10.5 miles  
Meet at Brimscombe Port (OS Pathfinder 1113 869023) at the car park of Bensons International to walk to Siddington stopping at The Tunnel House, Coates for lunch.

**CANAMBLE 93 PART THREE** Sunday 4th July - 11:30am - 7.5 miles  
Meet at the car park of Cotswold District Council Offices in Cirencester (OS Pathfinder 1114 024014) to walk to Cricklade stopping at the Greyhound Inn, Siddington, for lunch.

**CANAMBLE 93 PART FOUR** Sunday 26th September - 9:30am - 9 miles  
Meet at the bridge over the River Thames in Cricklade (OS Pathfinder 1134 102939) to walk to Lechlade stopping at the Spotted Cow, Marston Meusey for lunch. This walk will follow the line of the canal subject to the relevant landowners granting us permission to cross their land.

## Cotswold Canals Crossword



Answers

- see last Trow

# Membership Matters

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## Membership Secretary DES PINNOCK

This quarter we are pleased to welcome the following new members:-

Mr & Mrs M Hussey	Swindon, Wilts
Mr TH Robinson	Hambrook, Bristol
Mrs E Amati	London
Mrs GDG Boughtwood	Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos
Mr NA Thompson	Ashford, Kent
Mr R House	Stroud, Glos
Mr CJR Tothill	Deddington, Oxon
Mr JW Devine	Chalford, Glos
Mr DS Tarry	Wantage, Oxon
Mr A Peatman	Dursley, Glos
Mr & Mrs RJ Bradley	Horsham, West Sussex
Mr MJ Tyler	Stroud, Glos
Mr J Moorshead	Kings Cross, London
Mr & Mrs JG Carrier	Charlottesville Virginia USA.
Mrs PMC Hunt	Wimbledon, London
Mr AV Marlow	Minchinhampton, Glos
Mr & Mrs M Wood	Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts
Mr CJ Aeschlimann	Cheltenham, Glos
Mr DA Lockhart	Malmesbury, Wilts
Miss P Warren-Smith	Stroud, Glos
Mrs KR Lloyd	Stroud, Glos
Mr MJ Davies	Wapping, London
Mr & Mrs TP Kerry	Stroud, Glos
Mr & Mrs M Goss	Cirencester, Glos
Mr & Mrs SG Barker	Malmesbury, Wilts
Mr DG Lavis	Stroud, Glos
Mr SJ King	Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan
Mr & Mrs A Robbins	Stroud, Glos
Mr AR Casse	Cheltenham, Glos
Mr & Mrs P Underwood	Cheltenham, Glos
Mr & Mrs MD Curry	Stroud, Glos
Mr & Mrs S Bruce-Jones	Malmesbury, Wilts

The number of members has now reached 1003. We are, perhaps more fairly, now counting family memberships as two - under the previous method it would be 755. I am very pleased that, inspite of the recession, new memberships exceed those very few who cease their subscriptions every month. Should our target be 1200 in 1993? All members can help in this endeavour.

May I also offer a special thank you to those ten members (to date) who have responded to the recent plea to complete a Deed of Covenant - they join the many already doing so. The effect has been to increase Covenanted Subscriptions and donations by £532 and enable a further £177 to be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue over the next few years. If this was from only ten members may we anticipate ten times this number?

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## Sales Order Form

	PRICE £	QTY
<b>BETWEEN TWO RIVERS</b> (TV Series Walk Guide) <span style="float: right;">*NEW</span>	4.50	
Canal Walks: South (Quinlan) incl. T&S <span style="float: right;">*NEW</span>	9.95	
*WS ATKINS REPORT (Saul to Stonehouse)	9.95	
*HALCROW REPORT (Lechlade to Water Park)	14.95	
*Around the Cotswold Canals (10 circular walks -2nd edit)	2.50	
*Restoring the Cotswold Canals	0.50	
*Churches Along the Cotswold Canals	2.50	
Discovering Canals in England (P.L. Smith)	2.50	
The Flower of Gloster (E Temple Thurston)	8.95	
The Stroudwater Canal - Vol 1 (M Handford)	3.50	
S T&S Canals in Old Photographs (Cuss & Gardiner)	7.95	
S T&S Canals Towpath Guide (Handford & Viner)	7.50	
Thames & Severn Canal (Viner)	4.25	
Working Life on Severn & Canal (Conway-Jones)	7.95	
*The Trow (all issues available)	0.50	
*Trow Binder (holds 12 issues - suits all A5 mags)	3.50	
*Map (plan and section of Cotswold Canals)	2.95	
<b>BIG DIG VIDEO</b>	9.95	
*Sweater - Bottle Green with embroidered logo S M L XL	13.95	
*Sweatshirt - Grey with embroidered logo S M L XL	12.95	
*Sweatshirt - Green with printed logo S M L XL	10.50	
*Tennis/Sport Shirt - with embroidered logo S M L XL	11.95	
*T-Shirt - Green with printed logo (Child £4) S M L XL	5.00	
*Sew on Badge - with embroidered logo	2.45	
*Tie - with embroidered logo	5.95	
*Golfing Umbrella - Green & White with printed logos	15.95	
*Tea Towel - Cotswolds (includes Cotswold Canals)	2.50	
*Carrier Bag Holder	2.95	
*Car Sticker	0.50	
*Self Adhesive Sticker	0.50	
*Pen	0.30	
*Pencil with eraser	0.25	
Thimble - Round House	2.95	
Thimble - Buckby Can	2.95	
*Thimble - Cotswold Canals	1.95	
*Standard Mug	3.35	
*Half Pint Tankard	3.95	
*Pint Tankard	5.95	
*Milk Jug	6.95	
*Goblet	4.95	
*Coaster <span style="float: right;">specify Green or Blue</span>	0.65	
<u>* denotes special Cotswold Canals Trust item</u>		
Please tick your selections sizes and quantities required		TOTAL
Send the form and remittance to:- CHRIS JONES, THE COURTS 27 WALTON ROAD CLEVEDON AVON BS21 6AE (Tel 0275 875714)	0.65	P & P
<u>Cheques payable to Cotswold Canals Trust please</u>		
NAME.....ADDRESS.....		TOTAL ORDER VALUE
.....		
.....		
.....		Sum93

## Dates for your Diary

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Sun	6 Jun	Canamble Part 2 - Brimscombe to Siddington
Mon	7 Jun	Western Branch Meeting
Tue	8 Jun	Thames End Branch Meeting
Sat	26 Jun	REVIEW OF THE YEAR preceeded by AGM at Ebley Mill.*
Sun	27 Jun	Members' Work Party - Siddington
Fri	2 Jul	21st ANNIVERSARY DINNER. Stonehouse Court Hotel*
W/E	3/4 Jul	Tewkesbury Waterways Festival*
Sun	4 Jul	Canamble Part 3 - Cirencester to Cricklade
Mon	5 Jul	Western Branch Meeting
Tue	13 Jul	Thames End Branch Meeting
Sat	17 Jul	Annual Barbecue (details 0453 545042)
W/E	17/18 Jul	Bishops Cannings (K&A) Canal fest*
Tue	20 Jul	TROW Copy Date
WEEK24/31	Jul	WRG Summer Camp, Boxwell Spring Lock
Mon	2 Aug	Western Branch Meeting
Tue	9 Aug	Thames End Branch Meeting
Sun	22 Aug	British Waterways Guided Walk, Saul Junction
W/E	28/30 Aug	IWA National Waterways Festival, Peterborough*
Mon	5 Sep	Western Branch Meeting
Sat	11 Sep	Trip to Black Country Museum (details 0453 545042)
Tue	14 Sep	Thames End Branch Meeting
Sun	19 Sep	Members' Work Party - Cricklade towpath tidy-up
W/E	25/26 Sep	DIG DEEP at Boxwell Spring Lock (Newbury WPG)
Sun	26 Sep	Canamble Part 4 - Cricklade to Lechlade

\* sales stand at event

Western Branch volunteers work most weekends and welcome new workers. Summit & Thames End Branch volunteers usually work the last weekend of each month. If you can help, please contact the appropriate person.

Members and friends can keep up to date at Branch meetings and special events. Western Branch meet at 7.30pm at the Imperial Hotel, Stroud. Thames End Branch meet at the Bingham Library, Cirencester (but please check 0672 513400 as this is liable to change).

**FRONT COVER:** David Mills presents a welcome cheque for £1500 to Bruce Hall whilst volunteers take a break from work at Wallbridge during the IWA Clean-Up weekend - see page 16.

**BACK COVER - ABOVE:** The Stroudwater above Blunder Lock - complete with fully-fitted wall to wall duck-weed!

**BACK COVER - BELOW:** Thanks to Mike Hynd, with equipment from Ermec, some of the dredger was removed to the compound.

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