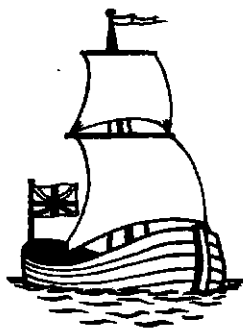


# THE TROW

The Official Magazine for members of  
the Canal Trust.



*Sapperton Canal -  
A View of Buntingford*

*Stroudwater, Thames & Severn  
Canal Trust Limited*

**10p.**

No. 29

March 1980

# THE TROW



The Official Magazine for members of  
the Canal Trust.

No. 29    March 1980



Perhaps it's because Spring is in the air, but I detect a general atmosphere of optimism as far as Trust activities are concerned. Even the dredger seems likely to be launched soon, and at lectures and slide shows the goodwill is evident. We shall never, of course, have enough physical help, but our faithful band of regulars are producing great results, and as long as the finance comes in to enable us to purchase plant and materials, the quicker the job can be finished. Considering it is our 'closed season' for sales, returns from this source have been

very good over the last few months, in spite of the general shortage of money in people's pockets and the high price of everything.

We are hoping to re-open at Coates Caravan fairly soon, and we are already booking space for summer shows, and hope to see as many members and others as possible to support us at these. One venue almost on our doorstep will be the Gloucester 400 Rally in June, and we hope to be at all the other usual Rallies, etc., so keep your eyes peeled for advertisements, both in 'The Trow' and in the press. Incidentally, I have noticed over the last 12 months that the usual comment from customers has changed from "I'll buy one of those - but you'll never get the Canal open again" to "I'll buy one of those - how long do you think the job's going to take?" - which indicates a change of attitude amongst the general public.

Closing date for next 'Trow' is 10th May - contributors, please note!

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## TROW ADVERTISING RATES:-

Personal Sales & Wants: 5p per word (Box Numbers 25p extra)

Block Adverts: Quarter Page    £2.50

Half-page                    £5.00

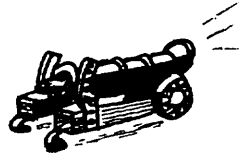
Full page                    £10.00

A discount of 10% will be given to all paid-up Trust Members. Please note no advertisements will be included unless they are prepaid.

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## Secretary's Report

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A New Year has commenced since my last report, and it would appear that with the New Year the fortunes of the Trust are on the upsurge, and not only on the Canals. The Trust's credibility is becoming increasingly apparent to those of us involved in its day to day running, and we are sure that this is a result of much low key activity, discussion and co-operation with other local amenity societies and Local Government Officers and Council Members.

This course of action has been slowly gaining momentum over the past two or three years, and is now beginning to bear fruit. The Trust has been invited to participate in the discussions for the Stroud Plan for the 1980's, and will be in a position to feed its interest and commitment into the discussion. After extensive correspondence, going back to July of last year, the depth and scope of which surprised the General Secretary of IWA, we are now in a position to consider that the Daneway Bridge and Causeway will not now be obliterated. Our work at Eastington is progressing at a high speed utilising the equipment that the Trust has recently purchased, and has drawn much favourable comment from visitors and the increasing number of walkers in that area. The Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation have expressed their satisfaction with the progress and have now asked us to extend our workings on up to Ryeford Double Lock and, what is more, backed their words with financial assistance.

The dredger, which will initially be used at Ryeford, is progressing to such an extent that Alan Jones is at last smiling and cheerful when he discusses its progress. The launch date is being confidently predicted as April/May, although he still requires assistance. How about it?

At long last we have been given the go-ahead to instal dams at Ham Mill and Griffins Mill in order that we may return water into the pounds and hopefully kill some of the weed that has returned to the dredged sections. Coates is now awaiting the grille to prevent unauthorised access into the Tunnel. This is on order. The dam is built at the round house and we have permission from the Bathurst Estate to instal a memorial seat to Dr. McGowan at the bottom of the approach ramp. We anticipate that we will soon be negotiating a maintenance lease over this section with the Bathurst Estate.

The lecture team is now in full session, and the degree of interest expressed in our work at the meetings we attend is most heartening.

The Thames Section has commenced operations under the Chairmanship of Ken Burgin, and is beginning to activate interest between Cirencester and Lechlade. All in all it looks as though the stable credible platform that we have fought so hard to attain after the disruptions of the past may well have been achieved, and we can now move forward confidently.

The only problem looming on the horizon at the moment is the loss of our plant depot at Aston Down, and we would welcome any assistance in finding suitable alternative accommodation for the extensive stock of equipment that the Trust has now accumulated.

We hope that we may see you on the Canals or at the Sales Stalls during the present year, as contact is so important.

#### SECRETARY'S PRAYER

Oh Lord, give me the understanding  
that I may forgive the apathetic member,  
Curb the over ambitious member,  
and not react to the views of the member  
who does nothing until I have done something,  
and then tells me in great detail how he  
would have done it and why what I have done is wrong.

#### DANEWAY BRIDGE AND CAUSEWAY

Following the information that was given in the last edition of THE TROW, we are pleased to inform the membership that it is to be recommended to the Gloucestershire Transportation and Planning Committee at its next meeting that the Daneway Causeway be repaired in its present form, and that the plan to lower the Causeway and demolish the Bridge should be abandoned. On the assumption that the Committee will accept this recommendation it would appear that the Trust and its many friends have succeeded in overcoming the threatened destruction of the Canal and its environment at Daneway.

This has been a united action not only by the Trust, but also by the other amenity societies and Parish councils in the area, which has involved many people in a lot of hard work, and is an object lesson to us all.

Our sincere thanks to all those who attended meetings and spent time on the telephone discussing and evolving the campaign.

In reply to our recent critical correspondent, may I point out that in the Trust today restoration and preservation have the same priority, and both are carried out at the same time.

DAVID H. BOAKES

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF CHAIN LINK FENCING

On 12th December the Trust was ordered by the Stroud Small Claims Court to pay Mrs. Enid Warner the sum of £85 plus costs to reimburse her for two rolls of chain link fencing which the Court found she had loaned the Trust to fence the Coates Portal. This action arose since following Mrs. Warner's original claim for the return of two rolls of 6 ft. high galvanised chain link fencing loaned during the period of the rebuilding of the Coates Portal, despite extensive enquiries of those involved at the time no trace or knowledge of the wire could be established, and as a consequence the Trust Officers were unable to sanction payment.

The matter was taken by Mrs. Warner to the Small Claims Court where she was able to produce a copy of a Trust Minute, of which the present Trust Officers have no record, and two signed statements from former Trust Council Members stating that she had in fact loaned this wire to the Trust, and the Judge accordingly found in favour of Mrs. Warner. Had this evidence been available to the Trust Council before the legal action had been instigated it would have satisfied our requirements.

It would appear that both the Trust and Mrs. Warner are out of pocket as a result of this litigation, but more important, no trace of the wire can be found. Both Mr. and Mrs. Warner have examined all the wire in the possession of the Trust, and categorically deny that any of it is the wire they loaned. The wire built into the Portal at Coates is of the order of less than 1/4 of the length concerned, and its history can be traced.

As a result of the above the Trust Council at its meeting in January have decided to offer a reward of £10 to anyone who can furnish information resulting in the recovery of the two rolls of chain link fencing concerned.

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1980 SPONSORED WALK

Make a note - put a ring round the date on your calendar

SUNDAY 11th MAY 1980

15 miles from London Road Car Park in Stroud right up to the tunnel entrance at Daneway and back again, passing the refreshment tent on the way.

Your Walk Booklet is hopefully with THE TROW. How about dubbing your boots, talking all your friends and acquaintances into sponsoring you, and going for a day out in the fresh Cotswold air, because WE NEED THE MONEY that you can raise, either as an individual or, if you wish, a member of a deserving organisation, when you can help them as well.

Last year we raised £2000 towards our restoration expenses. This year our possible programme, finance being the key, will cost us double this, and YOU can do it.

Extra Walk booklets are freely available, post free, for any of your enthusiastic friends, from:

Chris Watts	Gloucester 740257
Sue Hilton	Poulton 256
Mike Reynolds	Stroud 79720

SEE YOU ON THE DAY!

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*           G R A N D   S L A M           *
/
*       A T   E A S T E R   W E E K E N D   *
/
*           4th - 7th April 1980           *
/
*       Please contact:                     *
/
*           Jon Willis   Gloucester 416694   /
*           Alan Jones   Stroud 78656       *
/           David Pillinger Swindon 32524   /
*           David Boakes Gloucester 740525   *
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* for further information.                 *
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## GRAND SLAM

What are you doing over Easter?

Why not join us for a day or more, away from the decorating, the gardening, and all the multitude of other tasks that are so essential to the Easter Weekend.

The Trust working party organisers are willing to guide you and assist you in carrying out the various works between 4th and 7th April -

STROUDWATER	General clearance, brickwork at Newton Bridge, Dredging and rebricking at Upper Nassfield Lock (Newtown if you don't know better) Plenty of bonfires!
HAM MILLS AREA	Construction of three concrete block dams, installation of memorial seat to Miss Crane, and a hell of a lot of tidying up.
PLANT	Dredger - completion? Monorail, lorry servicing, tidying up and sorting out for move
COATES	Installation of grille in tunnel completion of fencing maintenance and tidying up

and if enough volunteers turn up we can find other jobs in other places. We have been promised the assistance of London W.R.G.

If you want to spend a day, two days or the whole weekend, please contact:

Jon Willis	-	Gloucester 416694
Alan Jones	-	Stroud 78656
David Pillinger	-	Swindon 32524
David Boakes	-	Gloucester 740525

as soon as you can so that we can arrange, if required, accommodation, the size and shape of the working parties, the necessary equipment in the right places and whether it is worth feeding you on site.


Remember YOU CAN HELP.

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W.E.A. (Western District) are presenting a Slide Lecture by Michael Handford at Wheatstone Hall, Brunswick Road (Museum Entrance) on Friday 28th March at 7.30 p.m. His theme is "WATERWAYS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE" and admission is 50p (Children and OAP's 25p)

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## Working Party Reports



### CERNEY WICK

There has only been one working party since the beginning of December at Cerney Wick. We were very fortunate, however, in having the assistance of the Swindon Sea Cadets, who did a splendid job of rescuing a second set of paddle gear from the 5ft of mud in the lock chamber. At one point it looked as if most of a submerged lock gate would emerge from the mud as well but it broke up as it was being lifted. The cadets then put the coping stones on the approach wing walls to the lock, thus completing this important part of the work. It would now be technically possible to insert stop planks at Cerney Wick lock. Much work has also been done to the paddle arches and upper gate recesses but the main section of the chamber remains to be done. This should be possible once the mud and water have been removed - hopefully this summer. In the mean time the Thames End branch committee are looking at several sections of the canal with a view to starting a major new project on the eastern reaches of the Thames & Severn. More news of this in the next "Trow." Anyone wanting information about working parties or other Thames End branch events should write to me or telephone Sue and Jim Hilton on Poulton 256.

Due to snow, the election of the Thames End Branch Committee was postponed. and will now take place at The Spotted Cow, Marston Meysey, on 7th April at 7.45 pm, before a Slide Show and Talk.

Marshals. Wanted, dead or alive, but preferably the latter, Marshals for the Sponsored Walk on 11th May, to keep the hundreds of enthusiastic Trust supporters going in the right direction. This is an ideal way in which some of our elderly (or less energetic) members can help the Trust. If you have energy, however, you can marshal AND walk by taking part in the Committee Walk on 4th May and marshalling on May 11th. Contact me for further details.

3 Gas Lane, Cricklade,  
Wilts.

KEN BURGIN

### COATES

Action at Coates has been limited during the last few months to occasional visits to keep the site under control, the main exception being the building of a 4ft high dam at the Round House stop grooves. It is hoped that this will mean a more plentiful depth of water in Kings Reach during the winter months at least. To try and achieve a more permanent head of water would seem likely to incur a considerable cost in terms of finance and effort at present, so regrettably Trust efforts on the site are scheduled for a low priority for the near future at least. It is intended, however, that the major working weekend at Easter should see the long awaited Portal Grill fitted in place, and a commemorative seat positioned nearby. The question of maintenance has not yet been finalised with the Bathurst Estate, but should be settled shortly. To date there has been a marked lack of enthusiasts to take on the role of 'Site Caretaker', but I hope that someone will come forward before long to offer their services - could this someone be YOU?

Montgomery Canal A small party of volunteers intend to visit this Canal for a working weekend in March. If you are interested in coming along, please contact me.

Thamesdown Leisure Convention 1980 The Trust has booked Stand Space for this event at The Oasis, Swindon, on Saturday 29th April. If you live locally and would like



to offer your assistance for either organising or manning the stand, then we would like to hear from you.

8 Churchward Avenue,  
Swindon, Wilts.  
Tel: Swindon 32524

DAVID PILLINGER.

#### STROUD WORKING PARTY REPORT

Now that Winter is with us the main effort is being directed at tree and general clearance on the Eastington Work Site. We are at present tackling the overhanging willows on the section between the Roving Bridge and Bond Mill, and progressing better than expected. The original 18 month target we set for this first section is well up to schedule, and completion by the Spring should not present any problem.

My only disappointment is that almost all of the help we are getting is from far afield, with very little local help. So come on members, come along, if only for a few cold hours!!

The Ham Mills site is in abeyance until the return of more settled warm weather?

At Easter this year we are once again going to organise a Grand Slam working party. Times and dates are advertised separately in this issue of The Trow.

The regular working dates are listed below, all on a Sunday starting at 10.00 a.m. and continuing all day:

13th April  
27th April

11th May  
25th May

8th June  
22nd June

JON WILLIS  
GLOUCESTER 416694



Things to come - 19?? Captain  
Alan Jones' view from the bridge  
of his dredger at the end of his  
triumphal journey!

### Advertising Feature

You need look no further for the perfect day out for all the family than the Janet Anne Corn Dolly Centre in Chalford. It is situated in the Golden Valley beside the old Canal Roundhouse, with the Mill Pond opposite and the River Frome at the bottom of the garden.

The bar has rough-hewn tables, a stone bar and plenty of real ale. The house dates from the mid-16th Century and has a fascinating history about which a book has been written. 200 years ago it was a Coaching Inn connected with the East India Company and 150 years ago Daniel Cox started his own stage-coach runs with the notorious 'Safety Briton'.

Egon Ronay mentions the restaurant in his 'Lite Bite' publication. Excellent value for money - morning, noon and night, spanning basket meals and tea to an a la carte menu.

Outside there is a riverside garden, and what better way to spend the day than lazing in the sunshine with your rod in the water hoping for a trout; a pint or two on the table and a ploughman's with home-made bread and pickle at your elbow.

There is no need to worry about the kids - they can feed the ducks, paddle or play with the retinue of cats and kittens. Older children can enjoy an hour or so at the Upper Hyde Riding Stables or fly their kites on Minchinhampton Common.

For the more energetic members of the family there are walks along the canal towpath and up the old donkey tracks among the picturesque weaver's cottages clinging to the steep hillsides of the Golden Valley.

No one will want to leave without a visit to the corn dolly workshop to see the plaiters at work and to learn about the history and traditions behind this ancient craft. Few visitors come away without a souvenir of their visit for who can resist one of these good luck charms after such a perfect day out.

## **Janet Anne Corn Dollies Ltd.**

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Chalford Place  
Chalford  
Stroud, Glos.

Brimscombe (045 388) 2556



# Readers' Letters

Letters to the editor are welcome, but they should be as brief as possible. We reserve the right to shorten letters for reasons of space. Where possible, please give a day-time telephone number.

Dear Mr Nott,

The following letter was in a recent copy of 'Cycling' and I thought it may be of sufficient interest to include in the 'Trow', as it shows at least that the tunnel was blocked in those days. I joined the Society when I was living in the area a few years ago, and remember once taking some young members from a cycling club from Cheltenham to see the Tunnel and the source of the Thames, and we ate our lunch outside the pub at Coates.

Every effort must be made to save the bridge at Daneway.

Best of luck,

182 Jeffcock Rd.,  
Wolverhampton.

B. Kirner

The following is the letter quoted above:- "Reading the excellent article by Graham Cole (Cycling, January 12) brought a flood of memories to my wife and myself. In 1933 or '34 we were, as members of the camping section, Birmingham DA, camping at Coates, near the Sapperton Tunnel, with some 20 or 30 others. After an evening at the little local pub, which could have been the Tunnel House, about a dozen members decided to go through the tunnel next day. With lamps and sticks they set off, while the rest of us set off to meet them at the other end. Four or five hours later they had not surfaced, so back to the other end we went, and still no arrivals. After about six hours we were on the point of calling on police help when voices were heard way up the tunnel. Appearing in the light they arrived in twos and threes, not a pretty sight, some shoeless, badly-cut feet etc; and boiling water and iodine were the order of the day. We were told they almost made the trip through, but for a complete blockage just short of the other end. We can but recall one or two names - two we know are away where cyclists go (??) - but what of the others? Are they still cycling and camping? H.W.Hopkins (CTC, RSF), Westbury, Salop.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sir,

As a very interested member in the future success of complete restoration to navigation of the Stroudwater, Thames & Severn Canal, I would like to know why, when the Trust is in urgent need of money and is constantly asking its members to get involved with fund raising activities, does its committee take it upon themselves to sell off the Trust's assets without giving notice to the ordinary members of its intentions.

I am in fact referring to the recent sale of the Trust's narrowboat, which was sold, I am told, for the ridiculous sum of £160. A full description of this boat and its history is mentioned in Readers Letters, Waterways World, October 1979. A similar hull is for sale at the moment, but in the hands of a professional boat dealer for the sum of £2500.

In my estimation, having studied the narrowboat market and having carried out an inspection on our own boat, I estimate the hull to have been worth between £800 and £1200.

Readers letters continued

I wonder what the members of the Shropshire Union Canal Society would have said if their Officers had disposed of their boat for that price and in that manner? Could we not have followed their example and put it up for tender? If our Committee is to continue in this blundering way, then I see very little future for the Trust as it is at the moment. A full explanation to the members would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

M.J.Bristow

28 Long Street,  
Tetbury, Glos.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mr.Nott,

Over the last few months a number of Trust members have either spoken or written to me asking if I intend to write a history of the canal which comes up to the present day. So to save anyone else writing to me, I would be grateful of you could spare me a few lines in 'The Trow' to explain.

I have in fact already written the first draft of a book which brings the history of the canal up to the end of 1978. However I am sorry to say that I can see no prospect of being able to publish this for a few years yet. The basic problem is that the history of the canal in the early and mid-20th century includes a number of 'irregularities' which if published could have two effects:-

(a) it might revivie the extraordinary bitterness which prevailed over the closure period in the early 1950's, divert attention from the current problem of the future of the canal, and perhaps therefore damage or delay the excellent work of the Trust. For obvious reasons I would not wish to risk creating this effect.

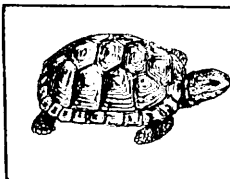
(b) In many cases the widows or families of those involved in these 'irregularities' still live in the Stroud area. Publication now may therefore cause them some embarrasment or distress - especially where deaths are recent. A longer time scale may enable these 'irregularities' to be seen in greater perspective.

I can only say that I do intend to publish this book one day - though it may be five or six years away. In conclusion I should perhaps make it clear that as far as I am aware none of the current Directors of the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation or their immediate predecessors were involved in these 'irregularities'.

Yours sincerely,

Studio Flat, 52 Park Street,  
Bristol BS1 5JN

Michael Handford.



This entry for last year's Sponsored Walk has just reached Stroud Car Park. We are thinking of adopting him as the Trust's mascot - remember the story of the hare and the tortoise?

JOHN STEPHENS

The Secretary has received, with regret, the following letter from John Stephens, the longest serving Trust Council and former Society Committee Member. John is an authority on the history of the Canals, and has probably one of the most extensive private collections of pictures of local interest which he has always willingly utilized to help in our cause.

Those of us who have more recently taken the reins have always appreciated the advice and knowledge that John has contributed to the running of the Trust. We sincerely hope that John will be back in harness before the decade is through.

Dear Member Councillors,

As you may all be aware, I have been thinking for some considerable time now of resigning from the Trust Council. My decision having been thus made, I now tender my resignation in writing.

My reasons for resigning are quite simple -

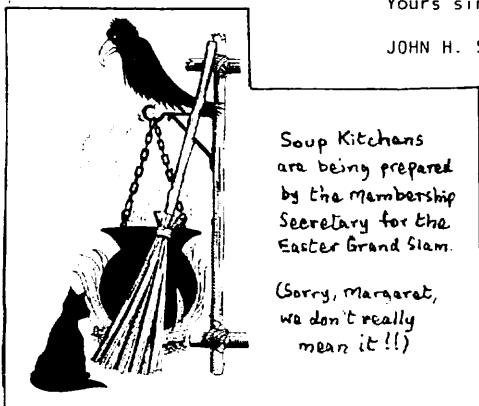
1. The long distance involved in attending meetings (sometimes 80 miles)
2. Because I live so far away practical physical involvement is well nigh impossible.

As you are all, also equally aware, I have felt most reluctant in coming to this decision, for I have enjoyed my position and involvement with the Trust ever since the beginning. I felt originally that by preserving the routes of these old canals, that I was doing my little bit for the environment, I always considered that one day fuel energy for transport would become a premium. I still hold that view, but now even more strongly than before. I feel that now is the time when the public at large will understand why we set up the Trust in the first place, and presumably we should now get more support from the public.

I wish the Council well and every success for the 1980s. Maybe I will be back in harness before the decade is through.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN H. STEPHENS



## SPONSORSHIP

As you will now be aware by the Walk Booklet with this Trow, the Annual Sponsored Walk is again with us. This year we are giving all members and friends a chance to participate in the Fund Raising by sending our Dynamic Duo, MICHAEL REYNOLDS and his canine companion SKIPPER on the recce run on Sunday 4th May, to ensure the towpath is suitable for both two and four legged walkers.

SKIPPER has decided that he and MIKE will do the full out and back trip if they receive sufficient sponsorship from you, the membership. In order to make the decision whether they will do the full 15 miles, SKIPPER asks that you send YOUR donations to Michael at 15 Rodborough Avenue, Stroud, as soon as possible, in any form of legal tender.

The money they raise will go towards the lighter the Trust will have to buy this year to go with the dredger which Alan Jones has nearly completed. A suitable vessel will cost between £1000 and £2000 dependant on condition and availability, so if our progress is to continue, back the Trust's DYNAMIC DUO. They are making the effort - you can make it financially worthwhile.

See your next Trow for the total they raise with your help.



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## FUND RAISING

Mrs. Chris Watts, of Lower Framilode, recently held a successful coffee morning, raising £15 towards Trust Funds. Our grateful thanks to Chris for the hard work she put in on a day of local flooding.

If any other ladies would like to raise funds by this method, we would be only too pleased to supply display boards and photographs of the canals, together with items from the Trust sales stand. In this way we can all do our bit.

Please contact Margaret Boakes on GLOUCESTER 740525 (evenings) for any further information.

# Book Review

THE THAMES TO THE SOLENT BY CANAL AND SEA - J B DASHWOOD  
Shepperton Swan, 92 pgs. Maps and illustrations. £1.95

There are books which, having heard or seen quotations from, one searches to obtain. Such a book is the Inland Waterway classic THE THAMES TO THE SOLENT by J B Dashwood, originally published in 1868 and describing a voyage in an open boat through the even then almost derelict Wey and Arun Canal from Weybridge to Littlehampton, and then by sea to Lyminster.

Mr. Dashwood writes in a timeless style not only of the canal, but also his observations en route. His vivid contemporary accounts bring back to the modern reader a long lost age and a different pace of life. He had, for instance, to send the groom on a pony in search of the lock-keeper who was working about a mile away from the canal. There are also excellent contemporary observations of the new Royal Marine Barracks and of the Fleet both on and returning from manoeuvres in the Channel.

All in all this is a book that must be purchased by anyone with an interest in canals, part of the proceeds being donated to our friends the Wey and Arun Canal Trust, who are attempting to restore the waterway, and it makes an excellent companion to P A L Vines LONDON'S LOST ROUTE TO THE SEA.

Copies of the first edition (1868) now exchange hands at upwards of £50 each. You may obtain the reprint from Ron Nott for £1.95 plus 50p postage and packing, but please hurry, as copies are limited.

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We acknowledge with grateful thanks the receipt of a quantity of old matchbox labels and also cheese labels from member Mr. F. Lloyd, of Gloucester. These will be sold on our Sales Stand, and we are always pleased to accept donations of anything saleable to help swell our funds.

R.N.

The Sales Stall will be at The Trinity Rooms, Field Road, Stroud, on Saturday 22nd March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If any members in that area would like to give a hand please contact me on Stroud 3014 or Stroud 3381 during business hours. Alternatively, if you have anything saleable to dispose of bring it along - all donations gratefully received - but not jumble, please! It goes without saying that we shall be pleased to see members, friends and anyone else prepared to open their wallets!

Ron Nott.

### 300 CLUB

Following the Annual General Meeting, sufficient subscribers expressed interest in this scheme to make a viable start. Some have been a bit slow in actually parting with their money, so we have only just held the first draw.

The winner is Miss B. N. Home of 68 Bisley Road, Stroud, who receives £5.

Those of you who promised to participate and have not yet paid up do so now - you could be one of our next winners! As the Club gathers support I hope to be able to pay second and third prizes when I announce the winners of the next draw in June's Trow.

For those of you who have overlooked the money-spinning opportunities of this venture, may I remind you that the annual subscription is £5, which gives you a chance in four draws in which, when more of you join, three prizes will be awarded. Assuming a membership of 100 the prizes would be £25, £10 and £5, with double prizes once a year drawn at the Annual General Meeting.

So delay no longer! Send in your £5's NOW to me,

Michael Reynolds, 15 Rodborough Avenue, Stroud,  
cheques to be made payable to the Trust.

Come and visit the  
**TRUST SALES STAND**  
at The Trinity Rooms, Field Road, Stroud,  
on Saturday 22nd March from 10 a. m. to  
2 p. m.  
Admission Free. Refreshments on sale.  
New and second-hand items available,  
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## ROUNDHOUSE REMINISCENCES

by C.F.Drew.

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### (1) INGLESHAM

Where Thames & Colne unite I stand, gazing over Gloucester land.  
By where my curving walls are laid was once a route for England's trade.  
'Tis many years since boats could gain the entrance lock to my domain,  
For broken beam and silent sluice bear witness now to man's abuse.  
Yet once I watched the slow parade of boats and barges from Lechlade.  
On upper Thames to me they came; from Kempsford and the West the same.  
No cargo does my warehouse fill now that the Thames & Severn is still,  
For country cottage now I am at peaceful place called Inglesham.

### (2) MARSTON MEYSEY

To Marston Meysey come, behold, I keep my watch on open wold.  
No broad stone lock or junction here where I still stand as overseer.  
My lengthmen did this pound maintain, but shall I see their like again?  
For only bridges stand forlorn, bridging nought save grass or corn.  
The plough has long usurped the bed which back into the landscape fled.  
Where countryside reclaims its own I keep my vigil ere alone  
Beside my bridge of mellowed brick, 'twixt Inglesham and Cerney Wick.  
Gone are the boats I know so well, they cannot pass my empty shell.

### (3) CERNEY WICK

I am the third Roundhouse in line and you can see these walls of mine  
Where Cerney Wick lock chamber stands, here Thames & Severn and road clasp hands.  
Beside this lock is where I lie, a tower in the trees nearby  
Watching faithfully alone; my roof a tiled and pointed cone.  
I have survived the years with pride, unlike my neighbours either side.  
Today there is no lock to keep, just empty chamber, still and deep.  
Yet I am able to rejoice, my walls still know the human voice.  
When they The Thames and Severn restore I shall keep proper watch once more.

### (4) COATES

Near Coates Deep Cutting I am found, Set on the highest summit pound  
And though the boats can pass no more the place which narrows at my door,  
I keep my silent watch here still where mighty tunnel pierces hill.  
Coates knew the meaning once of fame when royalty and gentry came  
To gaze in wonderment and awe at deepest reach and tunnel bore.  
But with the years we fell from grace, now dereliction mars my face.  
My roof lies open to the sky - no Roundhouse suffers more than I.  
The rook and rabbit know so well this lonely ruined sentinel.

### (5) CHALFORD

At Chalford I am situate, where chapelgoers pass the plate.  
When boats from Thames to Severn passed, this Roundhouse they did greet the last.  
My conic roof and walls intact enclosed 'til late each artefact  
Of every Thames & Severn kind; outside my door how sad to find  
This waterway lies still and dead; at either hand is culverted.  
Yet there is hope, from what I hear. That some day boats will re-appear,  
And resurrection, passing me, will set the Golden Valley free.  
To those who rally to the cause, success attend this plan of yours.

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