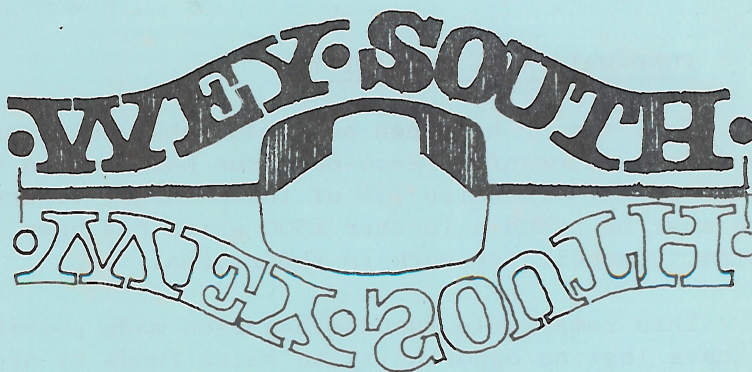


Newsletter of  
Wey & Arun Canal  
Trust



No. 6.

August 1973

- Secretary: Mr. P. R. Beresford, Tyrella, Shere Road, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey. GU4 8SF. Tel. Clandon 373.
- Southern Section: Mr. D. F. Ball, 12 Station Road, Horsham, Sussex, RH13 5EY. Tel. Horsham 4437.
- Northern Section: Mr. B. W. Rose, Deri, Greendene, East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT24 5RE. Tel. East Horsley 3150.

1. SECRETARY

John Markwick, who has been Secretary since the inception of the Society in 1970, has handed the job over to Peter Beresford. Peter, who will continue to look after membership records, lives at "Tyrella", Shere Road, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 8SF. Tel. No. Clandon 373.

2. PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

This position was created during a recent re-organisation of the structure of the Trust. It is hoped that the existence of this post will result in better communications within the Trust and better use of our resources. John Markwick has been appointed as Project Co-ordinator and lives at 59 Ardsheal Road, Broadwater, Worthing, Sussex. BN14 8RB. Tel. No. Worthing 203433.

3. INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP RATES - AN EXPLANATION.

Several people have asked why the rates have been increased when the membership is growing, with consequent increase in revenue.

When the Society was first formed it was felt that there was little to offer members but hope and that one pound was a reasonable sum to ask to cover administration etc. One would expect, no doubt, that an increase in membership would result in reduced administration costs per head. In our case, unfortunately, the opposite is true, a typical example being "Wey-South". The first issue of our bulletin was a run of about 250. We were most fortunate in that one of our members was able to produce this and other early issues at very little cost to the Society. To improve the quality of presentation and to cope with the much larger quantity required, it is now produced commercially and, of course, this costs more.

Another expenditure that the Trust is now having to face is that of the legal costs involved in our efforts to acquire leases on the canal. This is a very necessary part of our work but it is not everyday that someone leases a canal and therefore a considerable amount of legal work is necessary.

Another point raised concerning membership rates is that of reduced subscriptions for pensioners. This matter is currently being looked at and we hope to have an answer in next Wey-South.

#### 4. FUND-RAISING & PUBLICITY

4.1. This summer has seen a considerable increase in activity on this front. An outstandingly successful Disco-Barbecue has enabled the Northern Section in the first six months of 1973 to raise 75% of their target figure of £1,000 for restoration work. To this must be added a further £500 which has been allocated by the Hambledon Rural District Council for work in their area.

This remarkable success has been made possible only by very hard effort by members who have lost no opportunity to raise funds by organising Jumble Sales, felling trees, and putting up displays at village fetes etc.

#### 4.2. ARDINGLY SHOW

The display caravan attended this show, and although there seemed to be considerable interest in the canal restoration project from the public, the takings for the three day event were disappointing. The manning of the caravan worked out very well, and the Committee thank all those members who came and helped during the three days.

#### 4.3. PUBLIC MEETING, PULBOROUGH

This meeting, held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 21st June was a tremendous success. The hall was packed to capacity, everyone showed considerable interest in Mr. Nutbeem's illustrated talk, and there were lots of questions at the end. Refreshments were served at the end of the meeting, and the donation box on the coffee table collected nearly £6. A raffle was held, the prize being a canal dipper and pot plant. This made £4.50 and the prize was won by Mrs. Nutbeem. We had a stall at the meeting which was looked after by Mr. Wood who was kept busy both before and after the talk, and the takings at the end of the evening amounted to £39.00.

It has been made obvious to the Committees that this type of meeting is very popular with the public, and profitable to the Trust. It is hoped that further meetings will be held in Arundel, Horsham and Petworth in the Autumn. It is also an ideal way of letting our members know of the progress being made in the restoration.

#### 4.4. BARBECUE, PAPLANDS FARM, 7th JULY

Quite surprising what a few coloured lights, some posters, and a net of balloons can do to a milking parlour and collecting yard - the transformation took two hours to achieve and set the scene for the barbecue on Messrs. Kings' farm on the 7th July. The general opinion from the 150 or so people who came was that it was a very pleasant evening, the food tasty, the music (from a tape recorder in the caravan) good, and the bar provided by Dominics did good business. Mr. Phillips, who has recently returned from Australia where he sang his way around, entertained the gathering with some 'old favourites' accompanying himself with an accordion, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Our thanks to all those who bought tickets, and to the members who helped in the organising, and last, but by no means least, our grateful thanks to the Messrs. King for letting us have the use of their farm buildings, and also thanks to the cows!

4.5. Several lady members organised a small information and sales stand at the Water Carnival held at Loseley Park on June 3rd in aid of the Disablement Income Group. This was the Group's first venture and drew a crowd of about 5,000 people.

A great number of the disabled visitors were obviously enjoying themselves. Many people expressed surprise that Surrey boasted a canal so near their homes and went down into Sussex. "Getting to know your canals better" was the theme of our participation in the Carnival and, despite the wind and heavy showers, it was a success.

4.6. A Car Treasure Hunt was held on July 6th starting from Cranleigh. The prize went to Miss Miranda Duncan and her crew. Our thanks to mine host at the finishing point the "Blue Ship" and to Mr. Rippin for a first class operation.

4.7. Our especial thanks are due to Mrs. Slight and Mrs. Allen of Cranleigh W.I. for their efforts in raising £19 at a coffee morning held in the beautiful gardens of Mrs. Slight's house.

## 5. NEWS FROM THE OTHER CANALS.

### 5.1. THE BASINGSTOKE

The Trust was represented by three Council members at a recent ceremony to mark the handing over of two lock gates by the President of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society, the Earl of Onslow to the Chairman of Hampshire C.C.'s. Countryside Committee and the Chairman of Surrey C.C.'s. Planning Committee.

It is proposed to restore fully the canal between Greywell and the River Wey. Great emphasis is being placed on the use of voluntary labour to reduce drastically the total cost of restoration and so make the operation a viable proposition.

Hampshire C.C. has made Compulsory Purchase Orders on their part of the canal, and Surrey C.C. are in the process of doing the same.

### 5.2. THE CHICHESTER

We described the dredging operations on the Chichester Canal in our last issue. The evening of June 29th saw a light-hearted re-enactment of the original opening ceremony in 1823. A flotilla of canoes and rowing boats proceeded up the canal from Hunston to be greeted in Chichester Basin by a vast crowd, a band playing, an address by the Chairman of W.S.C.C. Coast and Countryside Committee and the Mayor of Chichester, cannon fire and the release of live fish into the water.

W.S.C.C. deserve the fullest praise for taking the initiative in restoring this section of canal as an amenity for the Chichester area which will provide an impetus for further restoration. Skiffs will be available for hire in Chichester Basin throughout the summer - members should make a point of going this enterprise to ensure its success.

### 5.3. THE GREAT WESTERN

And now more good news. A ceremony recently marked the re-opening of eleven miles of the Grand Western Canal restored to navigation by Devon County Council. The section is from Tiverton to the Somerset border with an additional two miles set aside as a nature reserve.

## 6. OVERHEARD ON A TOWPATH

"How many miles of canal did you say Devon County Council had restored ?"

"Eleven".

"How many miles of the Wey and Arun Canal are there in Sussex ?"

"About eleven I think".

"Oh --- And how many in Surrey ?"

"Much about the same I believe --- Why do you ask ?"

"Oh nothing --- just thinking".

7. NEWS FROM BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD

Speedy temporary repairs following a collapse in the brick lining enabled the Board to announce the re-opening of the Harecastle Tunnel from 08.00 hrs on Wednesday July 25th. A full survey will be carried out with a view to permanent repairs during the coming winter, causing as little inconvenience to users as possible.

Excessive rainfall caused flood water to overtop the banks resulting in a serious breach between bridges 25 and 26 at Disley on the Upper Peak Forest Canal. Although the Board are effecting repairs as quickly as possible they regret that the canal is unlikely to be re-opened this season.

8. SOUTHERN SECTION PROGRESS

8.1. Good progress has been made with the dragline dredger on the heavily silted section near Newbridge. A load of sleepers has been generously lent by Eric Clark of Wisborough Green to enable the machine to get across the marshy areas.

8.2. School parties from Steyning Grammar, Collyers and Weald Schools have been a great help in clearing out roots, removing spoil and building an earth dam at Rowner Lock. A scout group from Uckfield camped over the Spring Bank Holiday and cleared a solid section of jungle.

8.3. Some experimental brickwork has been done in Rowner Lock but this work is held up largely by lack of funds.

9. NORTHERN SECTION PROGRESS

9.1. Essential plant has been acquired as funds have permitted. The last Sunday in June provided an opportunity to try out some of this equipment and provide crew training. The winch tractor pulled out several old vehicles from the ponds by the canal at Run Common. The JCB excavator cleared a mound of spoil near the road and with the aid of one of the dumper trucks the material was transported to infill low areas on the towpath.

9.2. It is anticipated that the first major task of repairing the canal bed along the embankment south of Run Common will have started by the end of July. This will require the dammed-off section of the canal to be pumped out using the newly acquired Coventry Climax pump, removal of silt and suspect material, examination and repair of the brick culvert.

9.3. Boys from Cranleigh School and RAMC cadets from Aldershot under Sgt. Sid Carter have been combating nature along sections of the bank which were cleared last year. Keeping down summer growth and water weed is a problem to which some thought needs to be given to devise some suitable mechanical equipment.

9.4. Guildford R.D.C. have confirmed that they are becoming Corporate Members and we have also welcomed Wonersh and Bramley Parish Councils as Corporate Members. The support of the two parish councils is particularly valuable as Run Common and Birtley lie within their boundaries. Wonersh P.C. made special reference to the enhancement of the natural beauty of the area which restoration of the canal would produce.

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 16th.

Day trip to visit Crofton Pumping Station (Kennet & Avon) and the canal. A few seats still available. Coach leaves Cranleigh 1045 - pick up at Guildford 1100. Fare and admission £1.25 approx. Further details:- E. Vivian - Tel. Cranleigh 4548.

Friday, 14th December, 1973.

Buffet/Dance. Arrangements are in hand for this event to be held at Cranleigh Village Hall. Tickets price --- obtainable in advance from Mr. Cook, Cooks of Cranleigh, Guildford Road, CRANLEIGH, Surrey. Tel. Cranleigh 3774.

11. THE THAMES TO THE SOLENT.

Voyage of The Una Boat

We have obtained, on extended loan, a copy of the first edition of this book, and permission from the publishers to reproduce extracts from it in our Bulletin. We propose to start the serialisation, in our next edition, of the exciting adventures of Mr. & Mrs. Dashwood during their trip along the Wey & Arun Canal in 1871.

12. WORKING PARTY DATES

12.1. Northern Section

Every Sunday. See notice board at Run Common (Grid Ref. 033419) for details.

12.1. Southern Section

1st, 3rd & (5th) Sundays each month.

September 2nd, 16th, 30th.

October 7th, 21st.

November 4th, 18th.

At Paplands Farm, opp. Bat and Ball Inn on B.2133 near Wisborough Green (Grid ref. 065272).

THE NEWS.

1. Despatch of this issue has been delayed several weeks to enable us to send out the statutory notice of the Annual General Meeting within the required period - without incurring an extra postage bill.

2. DROITWICH CANAL.

The Waterways Recovery Group have asked us to help them produce a good turnout (300+) over the weekend 27-28 October to start the official restoration of the canal by the Droitwich Canal Trust, a joint amateur/local authority body who plan to restore the entire Severn-Worcester/Birmingham route.

If you are interested in going, contact the Editor for further information on the project, booking and travel arrangements.

3. OPPOSITION TO CANAL RESTORATION

Those of you who live in Sussex and Surrey may have been disturbed by recent articles in the press regarding opposition by some landowners to the canal restoration.

A small group of landowners have formed a committee to oppose the restoration project and are trying to persuade other landowners to back them. The National Farmers Union have declined to take a stand on this issue.

There is no cause for alarm, however, on the part of the Trust as we have always known that a few landowners were not in favour of the re-opening of this waterway due mainly to their misconceptions of the finished product. The reasons put forward by those in opposition only show that the Trust must put more effort into educating people on the real characteristics of a rural waterway.

Some people have asked why these landowners have waited until now to voice their opposition publicly when the Trust/Society has been working on the canal for some two and a half years. Could it be that although they declare the restoration to be impractical they in fact now realise that the project stands a very good chance of success? Why else do they feel the need to put so much effort into an attempt to bring the project to a halt?

There has been considerable talk about the canal leaking and flooding surrounding land. It should be remembered that the Trust is as concerned as the landowner about the canal being watertight as we have to find the water to fill it.

Some concern has also been expressed for the wildlife. The Trust acknowledges that there may be some temporary disturbance to the wildlife inhabiting the canal. Evidence from other canals, however, indicates that in the long term the spectrum of wildlife could be enhanced.

The Trust has received tremendous support from people, including several landowners, who no doubt believe, as we do, that this opportunity cannot be missed to provide Sussex and Surrey with an environmental asset that will serve the community in numerous ways.

Editor: A.J.L.M. Mackintosh,  
253 Hawthorn Road,  
Bognor Regis,  
Sussex.  
PO21 2UW.

THE WEY AND ARUN CANAL TRUST LTD.

PRICE LIST - AUGUST, 1973

Ref.No		Price	P.& P.
	<u>EXCLUSIVE WEY &amp; ARUN CANAL TRUST ITEMS</u>		
8B	<u>WEY &amp; ARUN ASHTRAY</u> 4" Diameter Glazed Pottery with Crest of old Canal Company in base. available in Green, Blue or Ochre.	30p	10p
9B 10A 10B	<u>PENS</u> Ballpoint, inscribed 'Wey & Arun Canal Trust' <u>Trio</u> . Modern Triangular Barrel, Blue/White retractable <u>Clubman</u> . Standard retractable, Blue/White <u>Rainbow</u> . Square Barrel, with cap, various colours	10p 5p 4p	2½p 2½p 2½p
11A	<u>BADGES</u> Inscribed "I've Worked Wey-South" Every Navvy must have one!	5p	2½p
7B 7A	<u>MODEL NARROW BOATS</u> Hand-made in wood and hand-painted, exclusively for the Trust. <u>Large</u> (Can be used as money box/collecting box) 2' 3" long <u>Small</u> 9" long	£5.00 £2.00	40p 20p
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W-S	' <u>WEY-SOUTH</u> ' The Bulletin of the Trust. Extra Copies of previous issue usually available, but we regret no back numbers prior to No. 5	5p	-
8A	<u>MINIATURE BRONZE WINDLASS</u> Made specially for the Trust. 3" x 3" Double Head	50p	5p
B	<u>BROCHURE</u> Full details of the Trust and its work, includes Membership Form	Free	-
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	<u>PAINTED WARE</u> Traditionally Hand-Painted canal items and souvenirs can be obtained for you and a selection of such items is usually available in our publicity caravan. Please let us know your precise requirements.		

THE WEY AND ARUN CANAL TRUST LTD.

PRICE LIST - AUGUST, 1973

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	<u>BOOKS, MAPS AND GUIDES.</u> Any Canal Publication can be obtained for you if you let us know your requirements. Stocks of the following titles are normally held and will be sent by return of post:-		
29A	<u>London's Lost Route to the Sea</u> by P.A.L. Vine The fascinating history of the Wey and Arun Junction Canal and of the vital part it played in the London-Portsmouth Barge route. A must for every Wey & Arun enthusiast!	£3.25	20p
24J	<u>London's Lost Route to Basingstoke</u> by P.A.L. Vine The history of the Basingstoke Canal.	£2.75	20p
24L	<u>The Kennet and Avon Canal</u> by Kenneth Clew	£3.25	20p
24M	<u>The Thames and Severn Canal</u> by H. Household	£2.50	20p
27B	<u>The Canal Enthusiasts Handbook</u> (1973 Edition)	£2.75	20p
15A	<u>Canal Fishing</u> by Kenneth Seaman	90p	10p
16A	<u>Waterways Heritage</u> (Historical, Illustrated)	£1.00	20p
23B	<u>The Canal Age</u> by Charles Hadfield	50p	10p
24P	<u>Canals in Camera</u> (1) by John Gagg	£2.50	20p
24Q	<u>Canals in Camera</u> (2), by John Gagg	£2.75	20p
24F	<u>Narrow Boat</u> by L.T.C. Rolt	£2.50	20p
25B	<u>The Number Ones</u> by R.J. Wilson	30p	5p
26A	<u>Slow Boat through England</u> by F. Doerflinger	35p	10p
27A	<u>Fun on the Waterways</u> (For children)	45p	10p
28A	<u>Getting to Know Boats</u>	95p	10p
13A	<u>Stanford's Map of the Inland Waterway System</u>	50p	10p
22A	<u>Imray's Map of the Inland Waterways</u>	60p	10p
22B	<u>Imray's Map of The River Wey</u>	50p	10p
23A	<u>Map of The Kennet &amp; Avon Canal</u>	80p	10p
20A	<u>Holiday Cruising on Inland Waterways</u>	40p	10p
20B	<u>Inland Waterways Guide 1973</u>	30p	10p
21A	<u>The Canals Book 1973</u>	40p	10p
28B	<u>The Thames Book 1973</u>	40p	10p
25A	<u>Holiday Cruising on the Thames</u>	£1.05	10p



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14A	<u>Getting Afloat - (Launching Sites)</u>	30p	5p
21B	<u>Nicholsons Guide No. 1 (South-East)</u>	75p	10p

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