

MEMBERS' MEETING

The meeting on 18th November was well supported with about sixty people present. At the meeting our objects and rules were slightly revised. A copy of the revised rules is enclosed with this newsletter.

A three-part talk was given on the history of the Basingstoke Canal. As a result, perhaps, several members have been trundling through the undergrowth looking for the other tunnel mentioned by Robert Harris.

Several points raised by members were answered and the meeting concluded with a slide show of local canals shown by Mr Snell, including some of the Wey and Arun Canal. Membership of the Society now stands at 75.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

A press circular by the Ministry in mid-November requested all persons and organisations to let them know their views on the future of the nationalised waterways system. It is hoped that members have informed Mrs Castle of their opinions.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE

A showing of canal films was given at the National Film Theatre on December 18. The programme included a Look at Life - "Where no tide flows", "The Prendergast File" (1963), "Barging through London" (1924) and a feature film "Painted Boats" (1946). There was also a short vintage newsreel shot of ice-breaking on the Grand Union Canal.

Owing to heavy booking a repeat performance is being given at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, Waterloo, London S.E.1, on Tuesday, March 7 at 6.15 pm. All seats bookable at 4s., 6s., and 8s.6d. Postal requests should include a stamped addressed envelope. Advance bookings do not open until February 15.

This will probably be the first of a series of programmes as the organisers have enough material for at least two more. If in fact anyone knows of further suitable material they would be glad to know.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL

As you may know we have been in touch with the New Basingstoke Canal Company requesting permission to work on sections of the Canal. Bearing in mind their objections, we revised our objects. A copy of these, together with our suggestions, has recently been sent to the Company.

No.4 lock on the Woodham flight has recently had its top gate patched up and re-tarred. It is believed that the pound is re-filling.

Fleet & Crookham Amenity Society have been clearing out rubbish in their area. Several choice objects have been removed, including a telephone, a brand new lavatory pan and a sack full of decaying horses' heads. Obviously a wide section of the population has found one use for the canal - although of course the mentality of such persons is to be questioned, and dumping can only lead to decay of the waterways.

SOCIETY PREMISES

We have had an offer of a piece of land with some sheds adjoining the Basingstoke Canal. If this offer goes through, working parties will be organised to tidy up the undergrowth. We will let you know once things are finalised. It is hoped that this land could be used as a store/clubhouse.

CIVIC TRUST

At the suggestion of several members we have applied to the Civic Trust for

registration. It is felt that they can give us advice and also keep us informed of the progress of societies whose work is similar to ours.

RIVER WEY

The Society is sad to learn that Newark Mill on the River Wey at Ripley was completely destroyed by fire in early December. Because it was built of wood, firemen had no chance of saving the Mill once the fire took hold. Newark Mill was considered to be the finest example of a water mill in Surrey, and it can never be replaced.

Secretary: Mr Jim Woolgar, 56 Connaught Crescent, Brookwood, Surrey.

[This is the very first issue of what eventually became the bi-monthly journal of the canal Society. It appeared on two 'foolscap' typed duplicated sheets, with no 'masthead']. It is an approximate representation of those sheets.