

BASINGSTOKE CANAL

Hampshire county council plan to build a new bridge across the canal near the present Pondtail Bridge on the eastern side of Fleet. The new bridge is to have a height above water level of 4 ft. 6 in. as opposed to the 6 ft. 6 in. headroom of Pondtail Bridge itself.

This may well have alarming repercussions, as if the bridge is built to this height, it will put an end to any hopes of getting larger craft down the canal. Any member who feels strongly about it is asked to write to the county surveyor, Hampshire County Council, The castle, Winchester.

PRESS CUTTINGS

So that we can be better informed about happenings in other areas, it has been suggested that members who come across any interesting newspaper cuttings should send them to: Mr Paul Dyson, 53 Wyke Avenue, Ash, Aldershot, Hants.

BOAT OWNERS

It has been suggested that members owning boats may be interested in taking their craft on to the Basingstoke canal (top pound) over Easter, so as to pass under Pondtail Bridge. if anyone is at all interested - even if they are not a boat owner - please contact Mr Leslie Harris, 198 Hermitage Woods crescent, St John's Woking, Surrey.

CIVIC TRUST

as reported in our last newsletter, we have applied for registration, and this has now been accepted.

In connection with the new Civic Amenities Bill, now before parliament, the Trust has produced a publication entitled "Conservation Areas - preserving the Architectural and Historical scene". This outlines some plans for preservation and gives details of listed historic towns. Amongst these are: Lymington, Romsey, Southampton, Farnham and Richmond. Copies of the book - which is well illustrated - can be obtained from the society's secretary (cash with order please) price 6s.6d. including postage (normal price 7s. 6d.). All orders before the end of March, please.

KENNET AND AVON CANAL

To celebrate the rebuilding of Bridge Street Bridge in Reading, and the reopening of the eastern end of the River Kennet to larger river craft, the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust are holding a rally of boats in Reading over the spring Bank Holiday weekend, May 27 to 29.

The rally is open to the public as well as boat owners, and various activities such as a cruise upstream, canoe races, sideshows and displays are planned.

Entry fees are: 10s. for powered craft, 2s.6d. for unpowered craft. The rally site is at Crown Bridge, King's Road, Reading, and mooring facilities are provided. Fuller details and entry forma from; Rally Harbour Master, Mr R O Radbourne, 5 Frimley view, Hayse Hill, Windsor, not later than April 30.

RIVER WEY

The National Trust are having a big clean-up of the River Wey in the new Haw area. Despite appeals to local residents to help keep the

Navigation tidy, they have collected many loads of scrap iron which will have to be carted away.

CANAL BOAT

One of our members has an idea for building an all-purpose canal craft. This would be basically a pontoon with an inboard engine driving a stern wheel. If any member is interested in either technical or financial help, perhaps they would contact: Mr David Royde, West Hill, Blelvetam Road, Fleet, Hants.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Crossing the Grand Union Canal near Watford the other day, a member noticed a home-made sign by the bridge which said: Don't let public apathy kill our waterways".

One way in which we can prevent this is by making sure that the subject is kept in the news and any misapprehension about the potential of our canals is promptly dealt with either by personal contact or by writing to the local press.

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

[This is the second 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.