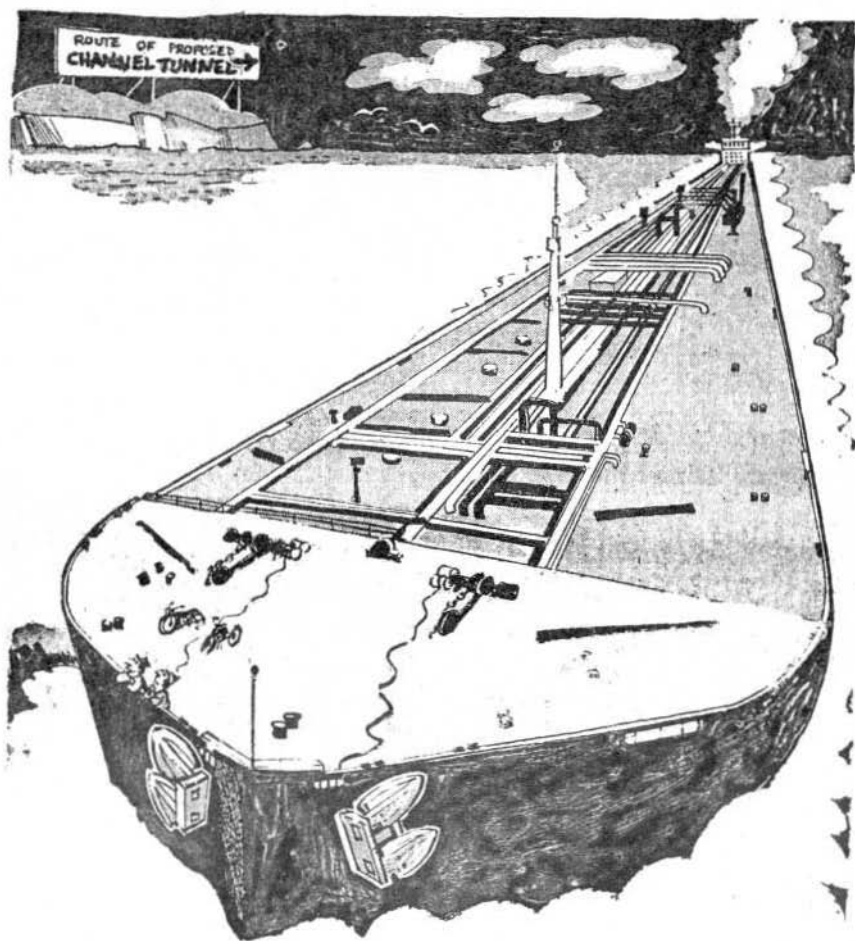


NAVVIES 44



With acknowledgements
to the Daily Mirror

waterway
recovery
group

"Yes, with a bit of luck we'll soon
be taking this little load by road"

Restoration and Development

LONDON WPG NIGEL STEVENS
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London SW10. 01-373-7234

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Vacant

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from the Editor

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COMMENT

Number 44 September 1973

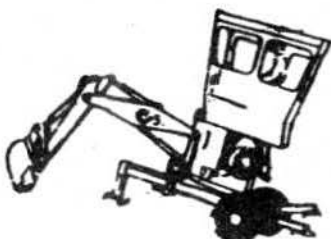
This is a small and scruffy edition for three reasons....First because we have slipped somewhere down the line with our production dates - so this is just an interim edition pending publication every two months from next

October. Secondly, if we waited to give you a full edition it probably wouldn't be ready for posing in time to beat the inevitable increase in postal rates and finally, this way we can give you two reminders to come to, or support the Droitwich Dig at the end of October.

As there will be more about the Droitwich dig later in this edition, may I just use the remaining few lines on this page to impress upon you just what a body blow the increase in postage rates is - it will cost Navvies alone an extra £75 a year to retain the same abysmal service - nevertheless we hope to hold the present subscription rate for the time being, but the final outcome depends upon you...as usual.

GKP

NEXT TIME OUT



LONDON WORKING PARTY GROUP

Please note - owing to reasons beyond our control the Ashton Canal working party on the 8-9th SEPTEMBER is cancelled. At the moment the next scheduled London Group visit will be the Droitwich Dig... Please send your forms to Rod Pawsey

However, please see Navvies 45 for any visits that may be fixed in the interim period.

NORTH EAST MIDLANDS WPG

September 15-16th

October 27th-28th

~~November~~ 17-18th

ASHTON CANAL
DROITWICH DIG
MARPLE - PFC

Will all North East Midlands Navvies please note that the Montgomery Canal WP planned for October 20-21st has been cancelled due to the Droitwich Dig, will happen in Spring '74.

ALL DETAILS OF ABOVE PROGRAMME FROM MIKE BRIGGS

BATH & BRISTOL BRANCH

September 2nd, 16th-30th

September 9th

October 7th Major Clearout at CLAVERTON - Help needed.

October 14th

October 21st

October 27-28th

BATH LOCKS
BATH & CLAVERTON
BATH LOCKS
BATH & CLAVERTON
DROITWICH DIG

All working parties start at 10.30am at the Plant Site at Bath or the Pump House at Claverton. Contact BRUCE OELMAN at "Dinas" Bathampton Lane, Bathampton, Bath BAZ 6SW

STROUDWATER CANAL SOCIETY

First three sundays in September

Digging silt from pound- start 10.00am Grid Ref. 156.854/044

First three sundays in October

Digging silt from upper chamber & rebedding coping stones

etc. Grid ref. 156.819/047

October 27-28th

Contact PETE SWALLOW

BOWBRIDGE

RYEFORD DOUBLE LOCKS

DROITWICH DIG

Continued Page 9.



Ladywood Top Lock: Chamber clearance - a drainage channel is to be dug and the brickwork repaired.

Droitwich Dig

The canal bed between the top lock and lock 2. The most inaccessible pound, it will be the last to be cleared.



Droitwich Dig 27-28-10-1973

ADVANCE NOTICE - COMPLETE DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN NAVVIES 45

In late October this year the Droitwich Canals Trust will be formed. This body made up of representatives from enthusiast bodies and local authorities will take over the lease of the canals from Droitwich Council who have had control of the corpse since the abandonment act of 1939.

In view of the great amount of work carried out recently on the canal by the Droitwich New Town Development Committee - three and a half miles Dredged to seven foot depth - two bridges built to full navigation height and width, over what are now green fields, and promises of more help later, together with the fact that this will be one more waterway not administered by the dead hand of nationalisation - has decided us to support this venture as much as possible.

We were therefore asked by the embryonic Droitwich Canals Trust to hold a large working party as soon as possible after the formation of the Trust to demonstrate national support for the project and to do some of the principal work required. So in co-operation with the Worcester-Birmingham Canal Society, the WRG have fixed the above date and are now appealing for your support.

The worksite is from the top of Ladywood Locks to the bottom of Portershill Locks (see map). Five Hydraulic excavators, two cranes, one hoist five pumps and six dumpers are to be used (with luck) Marquees to serve food and drink at lunchbreaks will be used. A bus service will be available from Droitwich Station and to take you back to the accommodation in the evenings.

The work will be to completely clear the first four locks down from Ladywood Top Lock, and to completely clear all the pounds between top lock and Portershill Bottom Lock. There will be work for everybody from shovelling in the pounds, to cutting back and burning the all enveloping vegetation.

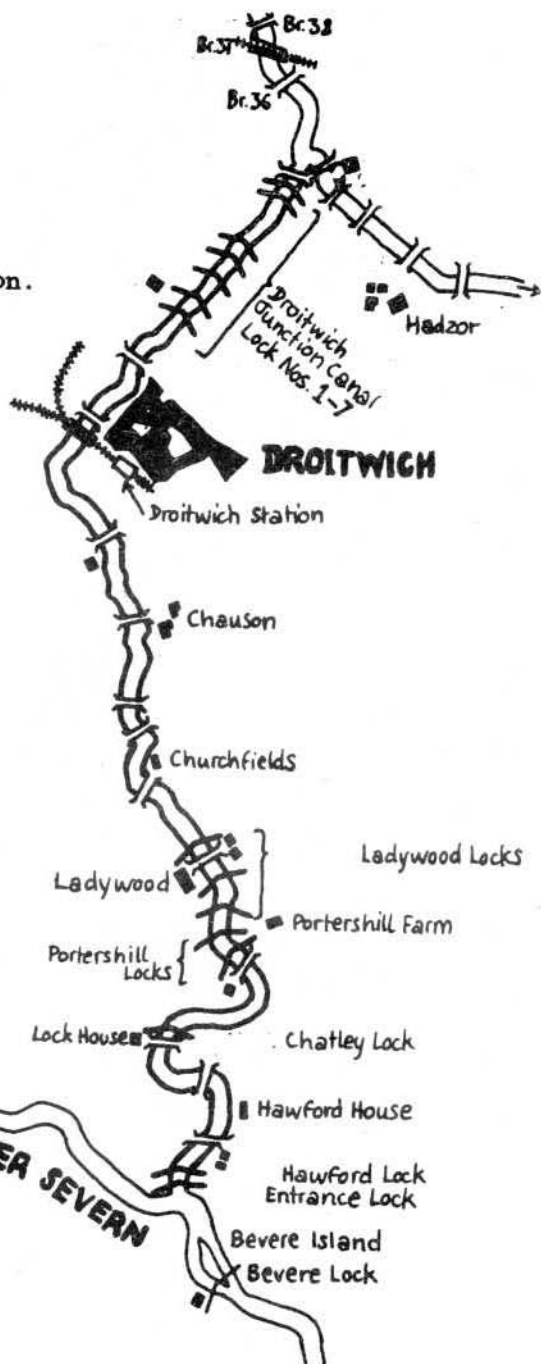
WORCESTER & BIRMINGHAM CANAL

Please complete the booking form enclosed with this edition. and return this to YOUR organiser. If in doubt, please send your forms to ROD PAWSEY at 13, Milford Gdns, Wembley, Middlesex.

We have work - we estimate for about 300 people. But to avoid the confusion we had at Ashtac last year, please book early - you will then be sent all details before the event - priority will be given to those who book in before the date, both in work and accommodation. These people will not have to pass through control on the day, just book in and start work.

Please make your answers on your form as definite as possible - it is really hopeless to be given a set of alternatives that we have no control over.

More details will appear in Navvies 45 which will appear October.





Lock 2: Chamber and channel clearance.

Droitwich Dig

Lock 4: Again a chamber clearance. The channel above and below will be cleared by a large excavator.



NEXT TIME OUT....Continued.

NARROW BOAT TRUST

22-23rd September/27-28th October

NORTON CANES DOCK

Work now in hand includes re-planking "Alton's" cabin and painting "Nuneaton's" hull. Contact BERNARD HALES for details.

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS WPG

September 8-9th

CHESHIRE RING

September 23rd

OLD STRATFORD ARM

October 21st

OLD STRATFORD ARM

October 27-28th

DROITWICH DIG

Real help needed from everybody in the area for all the above dates.. Contact ANDREW CAVELL

DUDLEY CANAL TRUST

2nd SEPTEMBER

CASTLE MILL BASIN

Clearance of wharf & improvement of steps into basin

16th SEPTEMBER

PARKHEAD (Provis)

7th OCTOBER

TIPTON GREEN

A "political" rebricking of part of the ex.towpath wall at the site of Tipton Green Locks.

21st OCTOBER

PARKHEAD (Provis)

27-28th OCTOBER

DROITWICH DIG

A party from the Trust will take part.

Details of all work parties will be posted at the toll office at Parkhead Locks or may be obtained from DAVE CANNON

SCOTTISH IWA

September 29-30th

UNION CANAL FALKIRK

October 20-21st

FORTH & CLYDE

Contact Richard Davies.

GRANTHAM CANAL SOCIETY

EVERY SUNDAY

CROPWELL WHARF

Please check with CHRIS BATES first as there are many jobs to be done. Rendezvous in all cases at Cropwell Wharf.

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS SOCIETY (BCNS)

September 9th & October 14th

OLDBURY LOCKS - Titford.C

September 23rd

WINSON GREEN LOOP - N.

October 7th

WINSON GREEN FEEDER

Check with GRAHAM TURNER - Meet every time at Gas Street at 10.30am.

KENNET & AVON TRUST - Devizes/Pewsey Branch

September 9th

WOOTTON RIVERS

Fourth Sunday every month

PEWSEY WHARF

NEXT TIME OUT....Continued

NORTH LONDON RESCUE COMMANDO

September 29-30th)
OCTOBER 13-14th & 27-28th) **K&A CROFTON LOCKS**
November 10-11th & 24-25th)

Full details of the work here will be published in Navvies 45 but in meantime please contact **RICHARD TRIM**

COVENTRY CANAL SOCIETY

October 28th **COVENTRY ARM**
Attempt to clear floating timber. Contact **ROY PARKER**

WEY & ARUN CANAL TRUST - SOUTH

September 2nd, 16th & 30th **ROWNER LOCK**
Restoration work on rowner lock and bridge. Bricklayers needed. Site is at Paplands Farm, opposite Bat & Ball Inn on B2133 near Wisborough Green. Grid Ref. 182-065/272.
Contact **ANGUS MACKINTOSH**

LAST MINUTE THINGS:

1. Harecastle Tunnel on the Trent & Mersey now reopened.
2. Upper Peak Forest Canal breached at Disley- closed till 1974
3. Agreement reached to restore the Cheshire Ring portion of the Rochdale Canal in Manchester, using professional & voluntary labour, by April 1974. Details Navvies 45
4. £600 approx taken by WRG Stands at Ely & Northampton Rallies.
5. New Thames pick-up acquired by WRG - now in service
6. Press Date for Navvies 45 ... September 25th.
7. Motor Boat & Yachting have launched an appeal for £5,000 to 'buy' a lock on the Upper Avon...great stuff.
8. Apologies to those who wrote articles for this edition - regret no space - will appear next issue.
9. Current edition of Waterways World contains and excellent three page article on the Yorkshire Derwent.
10. Two second hand cement mixers obtained following the recent appeal for old plant - keep them coming.....
11. We have a need for either another Thames pickup or Thames Van for long term loan to a group in the deep North. Also a reasonably priced second hand Saga or Wickham builders hoist. Fullest details to the Editor please.
12. Correction to Colin Vanners address published on page 18 of issue 43.. 49, Glebe Road, Wickford, Essex. Tel 03744-4570
13. Apologies to Nick Grazebrook for failing to sign his letter published on Page 20 of the same issue.

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