

WASC 2055

WAI 533

Article on  
Gunpowder boat  
sold to Mr. J. Gould  
of Newbury



NASC 2055  
NA1 533

### The Barges

Subsequent to the closure of the RGPF a number of the barges were sold. It is believed that a number were used by on the River Lea Navigation as maintenance barges and may have survived into the 1970s. Three were sold to the Great Western Railway in 1946 for use on the Kennet and Avon Canal. One of the barges had a curved roof as is found on the surviving barges on site. The other two barges were larger each with a transom stern end and a squarer cabin that ran the full length of the boat. Mr Gould of Newbury who later owned one of the barges commented that they were unusual canal boats owing to the lack of internal planking, which made caulking difficult.

The smaller barge was bought by Mr Gould in the early 1950s and was used as an office for a boat hire business on the Kennet and Avon canal. The barge survived into the 1960s when it was broken up. One of the larger barges remained derelict for some time and was broken up probably during the 1950s. The other barge was sunk up stream from Newbury Wharf in around eight feet of water and is believed to survive.

NB see Canals of Eastern England David and Charles

if you are interested in the Newbury Barge

Mr John Gould MBE

4 Rockingham Road

Newbury

Berkshire

RG14 5PB

0635 41548



The river alongside Newbury Wharf and Victoria Park often grows three thick crops of weed a year. Above: Vegetation being removed prior to Boat Fair. Dredging now, before the Wharf amenity redevelopment, would save the annual cost and effort.

Photo and block  
courtesy of  
Newbury Weekly  
News Ltd.

## Newbury Branch

The Branch A.G.M. was held on March 12th. Mr. Ketley retired from the Branch Chairmanship and Mr. P. Lindley-Jones was elected Chairman in his place. Mr. J. H. Anstey was re-elected Secretary and Mrs. Suzanne Fisher as Treasurer.

On April 9th the Branch held a social meeting at which Mr. John Bach showed some most interesting slides of holidays on boats on the Medway and around the Cornish coast. At this meeting the Branch showed its appreciation of all the work done during the last few years by its ex-Chairman, Mr. Phillip Ketley, and by Mrs. Ketley, and presented them with a set of mounted horse-brasses for their new home in Eastbury.

### NEWBURY LOCK

More and more boats are stationed at Newbury Lock landing stage; we counted 20 on May 9th. Most magnificent of the new arrivals is Mr. Charlie Allen's *Mallard*, a four-berth houseboat, built by Charlie and embodying various improvements on his first effort *Dichoso Vagabundo*.\* The Trust workboat is still working for her living below the lock. There are also several new dinghies and conditions are getting a little crowded; however, British Waterways are extending the landing stage which will ease the mooring problem. We foresee a lot of traffic on this part of the canal this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Merrits, our members from Pennsylvania, U.S.A., paid us a flying visit. They came to the Trust dinner and made a trip to

Page Six

Hamstead Marshall (cold and wet), played cowboys with an irate swan, and for a few days became an integral part of life on the canal at Newbury. Come again soon, Al and Alice.

Visitors and members will be glad to know that the launching ramp at the wharf has been rebuilt, tested and proved efficient. The old one, having been somewhat damaged by some friends of ours, was hauled out by an obliging crane. The energetic work party also tidied up the wharf side and levelled the banks, which they have now covered with gravel.

We are delighted to see the British Waterways weed cutter at Newbury, it is certainly needed.

New top gates for Ham Lock have been made by British Waterways in their Newbury Depot, and these have been taken down river by boat and put in position.

## Visit Bath and Explore the Surrounding Countryside

A HOLIDAY ON THE KENNET & AVON  
(Bath — Bathampton — Claverton Pound)

**NEW 4-BERTH**, fully equipped stern-paddle CRUISER, available **1965 SEASON** for weekly hire

Details (S.A.E. please): H. C. ELLIOTT,

"Braddon," Wellsway, Keynsham Nr. Bristol.

From "The Bvly" (K & A Canal Trust) July, 1965.