



NATIONAL HORSE BRASS SOCIETY

MIDLANDS AND N. WALES REGION

AREA SECRETARY - TERRY KEEGAN

Phone No Clows Top 358

NEWSLETTER NO 3.

It is nearly a year since our last area meeting - which proved rather disappointing as far as numbers attending was concerned. Hopefully, the new members who have joined the Society within this region will support the meetings and help make them a success.

First of all - a reminder. Have you renewed your membership yet? The sooner you do so, the more certain you are to receive the 1978 brass and the chance of the optional extra (a swinger of the society motif) when available. You will be notified when these items are available by the Secretary of the Society. Your renewal of membership should go to the Membership Secretary - Gerry Thompson.

CANAL BOAT TRIP. How does a trip on a horse drawn barge appeal to you - with the possibility of meeting one of the old boatmen who knew those 'heady' days of horse drawn barges? If the response is good enough - and I must have your replies as soon as possible - the trip is being organised for the afternoon of Saturday 3rd June. The journey starts from NORBURY JUNCTION near NEWPORT in SHROPSHIRE, and if we can muster 40 people we can hire the barge for approx £1 per head. Member's wives and family are welcome to join this outing and the offer is also being extended to members and their families from outside our own Region. It is important that we get a good response and I would be obliged if you would send back the bottom portion of this newsletter letting me know the numbers you wish to bring. Refreshments are available if required. Also, if you have any items of harness remotely connected with the waterways - please bring it along too.

TOURS OF WALSALL MANUFACTURERS. If any member would like to be conducted round the works of W. Thacker & Sons (who produce stamped harness decorations), Stanley Bros. (One of the oldest manufacturers of horse brasses and harness fittings) and H. Binnin & Sons (Still casting brasses in the method of 100 years ago) - I have arranged with these Manufacturers to bring small parties of interested members. Unfortunately these can only be done during working hours and the first one is arranged for Thursday 16th MARCH at 2pm. The second day arranged is Thursday 4th MAY at the same time. Please let me know if you would like to be included in one of these parties.

A.G.M. - MARCH 11th. - CENTRAL LIBRARY, WALSALL - 11 AM. Please make every effort to attend - and not only meet the Committee but also make a

contribution to formulating future policies of the Society. Stall of goods for sale from the Society's trading list - including the Shire Horse Society Centenary Horse Brass, Society Ties, etc. There will also be a display of 19th Century Manufacturer's Catalogues by WALSALL REFERENCE LIBRARY and members themselves are invited to bring along any interesting exhibits they may have. The more we are willing to display, the more interesting the meeting after the official business of the A.G.M. - SEE YOU THERE!

There will be a



KENILWORTH SHOW. - A DISPLAY OF BRASSES BY MIDLANDS MEMBERS. I am presently exploring the possibility of Regional members - and possibly with help from other Regions, of putting on a display of brasses at the Kenilworth Show on Sunday 27th AUGUST. The Show is held on the site of the ROYAL SHOW at Stoneleigh in conjunction with the Town and Country Festival. The organisers are investigating the possibility of providing us with a free covered site not less than 20ft x 20ft. in which we could mount a display of horse brasses as well as advertising the Society and running a fund-raising stall.

These are tentative arrangements so far - More details later. In the meanwhile any members interested in the idea and any suggestions would be welcomed by myself.

DISPLAY OF HORSE BRASSES. Walsall Museum are hoping to bring one of the large horse brass collections from another museum later this year and mount a display. If this comes off I hope to arrange a preview and Regional meeting at the Museum. Details when available.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL SECRETARY. I urgently need the assistance of one of our Midlands members to help run the Regional activities. My own commitments as Journal Editor take up a lot of time and I would appreciate the offer of help from other members.

THE JOURNAL - Issue No 4 should be through your letter boxes shortly. I hope you like the new improved quality of the printing! Any articles or snippets of information which you can supply for future Journals would be very much appreciated. Our No 5 issue will have a special section for articles on horse bells of all sorts. - so if you have any information which could help fill this section - put it on paper and send it to the Editor - Yours Truly

SALES OF HORSE BRASSES. - Coming Shortly. 22nd Feb - Next Wed - King and Chasemore, Pulborough. SX. Over 600 brasses from a private collection.

Same day! - Thimbleby and Shortland - Reading - The usual mixed bag of Harness, Carriages and Horse Brasses.

DETACH AND RETURN TO TERRY KEEGAN, THE COUNTRY CENTRE, CLOWS TOP, KIDDERMINSTER

I WISH TO BRING..... PERSONS ON THE HORSE DRAWN CANAL BARGE TRIP