

Newsletter

Issue 391

April 2005

Chairman's Column

April Speaker

We are delighted to welcome to our April meeting Cliff Penny of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust, who will be telling us about their plans and aspirations for the restoration of that canal, and of the works so far carried out.

Society Visit to the Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton

I am pleased to confirm that the response from our members has been good and we now have sufficient interest to confirm this outing, which will take place on Sunday 8 May. Please see final details in this Newsletter. I understand there are only one or two places left so, if you haven't yet put your names down, please contact Maureen Greenham, without delay, on 023.8040.6951 or e-mail: maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com

Future Programme

In last month's Newsletter we provided details of our future programme for the rest of this year but, at the time of writing that item, we had a vacant slot in July. I am delighted to advise that Leah Mathias, the

The Itchen Navigation Project

As our members will be very much aware, the Itchen Navigation is a long-disused navigation flowing between Winchester and Southampton. It was originally constructed in the late 17th century to carry chalk, aggregates, coal and timber. The route was created by new cuts and embankments, associated with locks, sluices, bridges and water mills. Some elements of the water control were built or modified to manage the competing demands, for the navigation, the mills and the water meadows which characterise the historic landscape of the Itchen Valley.

The 10.5 miles of the navigation linked the historic heart of Winchester, then an important market place, with the Itchen at Woodmill in Southampton, where access was gained to the sea. It was an important trading link, and is now an internationally renowned wetland habitat.

Unlike the River Itchen that provides little in the way of public access, the navigation towpath allows rare public access to a chalk stream in a valley of outstanding natural heritage value. However, as a consequence of its disuse, some parts of the navigation are dried out/filled in, and in places the towpath and structures are degraded and undermined by bankside breaches and vegetation.

Itchen Navigation Project Officer, has agreed to come and talk to us about that Project. An article about the project is published in this Newsletter.

Jigsaw Puzzles

Just a reminder that Gill and I will be bringing a few of our jigsaw puzzles along to Society meetings. So, if you would like to borrow one (or more), just have a word with us and view our monthly selection.

Donated Canal Print

Members Paul and Viv Taylor have kindly donated to the Society a limited edition canal print by Garth Allan. It is proposed to auction this at a future meeting.

Refreshments Rota

Despite pleas we still do not have any volunteers to assist with refreshments for our May and June meetings. Please do not just leave it to other members to volunteer. Remember – no volunteers means no refreshments on those two dates!!!

Paul Herbert

The former navigation is neglected and unmanaged. It was one of the earliest navigations in the country and forms part of the heritage of the origins, character and purpose of the waterborne transport revolution, as well as Hampshire's industrial and agricultural development. Through its relatively early disuse it retains some early features such as remnants of turf sided locks. The physical structures such as bridges, locks and sluices have considerable historical and community value.

The navigation is an integral part of the River Itchen system. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) along most of its length. It is impounded by a series of sluices set in the old locks but for the most part is a fast-flowing chalk stream of great environmental and amenity value. In this way the historic fabric of the navigation contributes to the maintenance of the internationally important habitat. The canal forms an important ecological corridor through developed and agricultural landscapes, enabling species to move through an otherwise fragmented landscape, and providing an important refuge for species whose habitats have been diminished elsewhere. The

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March Meeting 'Little & Large in the North West' - Eric & Sue Lewis

Long time Society members, Eric and Sue, have travelled the British waterways extensively, and also further afield, on the continent. It is always a very informative and entertaining experience when they give us a talk on one of their cruises.

Before anyone speculates on Eric's and Sue's title for their March talk, it was based on the dimensions of the waterways they travelled during a seven week cruise during August and September 2003. On that occasion they set out to cruise, on board their narrow boat 'Remus' the restored Huddersfield Narrow and Rochdale Canals, plus slighter larger waterways, more of which later. Weeks one and seven were taken up by the cruise north from their base at Napton and, of course, the return journey.

On this occasion, the talk was mainly given by Sue, with only the 'occasional' comment from Eric, who was doing an admirable job as projector operator. Sue and Eric presented a very large number of slides, the majority taken by themselves, and those were interspersed by comparative slides of the same locations, taken many years ago. It is obviously impossible, in a write-up such as this to describe their whole presentation, but I will try and give readers a flavour.

Their cruise on these northern waters commenced at Lock 1W (west) on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, at Ashton-under-Lyne and they slowly made their way towards the summit level at Standedge via Stalybridge and Saddleworth. Then it was time to join the short convoy of boats preparing to be towed through Standedge Tunnel; including strapping them together and the necessary covering of the boats with rubber sheeting to protect them from the harsh environment within parts of the tunnel. Sue and Eric described their long trip (3-4 hours) through the tunnel on board the passenger 'pod' which leads the convoy. At one point Eric was even permitted to steer that vessel!

Once through the tunnel, at Marsden, it was time for a quick visit to the Standedge Visitor Centre, but Eric and Sue were not very impressed with its content. It was now time to descend the eastern locks gradually moving down to Slaithwaite and Huddersfield and the junction with the Huddersfield Broad Canal. The original intention of the cruise had been to re-cross the Pennines via the Rochdale Canal but they had learnt on route that that canal was unfortunately closed to navigation because of lock failures. They therefore had to retrace their steps on the

Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

We then moved from the 'Little' section of their cruise to the 'Large' – with a pre-arranged cruise on a much larger vessel, on the Manchester Ship Canal from Salford Quays to Ellesmere Port and then on to Eastham Docks where they locked out onto the River Mersey and crossed to Liverpool. It was fascinating to experience the dimensions of such a wide waterway and to see both how the ship canal and its facilities were in decline but also where regeneration was taking place.

It was time for Eric and Sue to turn 'Remus' and head south once again but their adventures were far from over. They had decided to detour off the Trent & Mersey Canal on to the River Weaver, which they accomplished by descending the restored Anderton Boat Lift. From the bottom of the lift they turned to starboard and cruised the river to Weston Point Docks, and its junction with the Manchester Ship Canal, passing the disused entrance lock of the former Runcorn & Weston Canal. (It is hoped that canal may be restored, which would enable its reconnection to the Bridgewater Canal at Runcorn). I

had always thought that the river between Anderton and the Ship Canal was surrounded by heavy industry but Eric's and Sue's slides showed that much of that route was attractive open countryside. It was then time to turn 'Remus' again and head back up the River Weaver to the head of navigation at Winsford Pools. Then, back to the Anderton Lift, the ascent to the Trent &

Mersey Canal, and the continuation of the return cruise to Napton.

Eric's and Sue's slides were fascinating with such a variety of views, including detail of locks and other canal structures and, of course, the spectacular countryside through which they passed, not forgetting internal views of Standedge Tunnel. One thing not mentioned previously was that on two occasions during this cruise they had to moor for three days to enable Eric to travel home, via train, to the Southampton area to deal with domestic issues. Those rail journeys in themselves were fraught with difficulty and could almost lead to a presentation in themselves.

Many thanks Eric and Sue for a thoroughly enjoyable evening – we shall all look forward to your next talk.

Paul Herbert



Stretched to the Limit!

n.b. GUELROSE was built in 1989 as a family holiday boat. It was used by Mum and Dad (Sonja and Alan MOORSE) and my wife Jenny and I for many years. In 2000 we 'inherited' the boat from Mum and Dad, and as I had retired the year before, the opportunity arose for us to fulfill our ambition and live permanently on the boat, cruising in the summer months and mooring up for the winter. We carried out a few improvements to enable us to live comfortably, adding an inverter and a diesel room heater, and then we set out. Our constant companions were two golden retrievers, ALFIE and LEWIS, oft photographed looking sad and neglected and pleading for sympathy on their side of the semi-trad.

Although GUELROSE was 60 feet long, space was at a premium and two wet and dirty dogs in the winter months were no joke, either having to be brought into the lounge at the front or the bedroom at the back where they promptly shook themselves over everything within their reach. Also, our 3 year old grand-daughter Ellie loves visiting Nannie and Granddad on the boat, but had grown out of her travel cot and started insisting on her own bedroom! Over the winter of 2003/2004 we discussed the problem and jokingly said, "Why don't we have an extension?" After a while it was no longer a joke and we seriously looked into the possibility of having the boat stretched by 10 feet. Our local boatyard was a specialist in 'stretching' and after a couple of chats with the proprietor we decided to go ahead and have 10 feet put in at the rear of the boat to create a new cabin. The boat entered the boatyard in May.

We had a chance to try out the 'new' 70 footer as we took it to the national at Burton on Trent, incomplete but advertising "Streethay Stretch" in bold signwriting on the new section. Our first major challenge was to turn the corner at Fradley, with the usual large numbers of gongoozlers, and to negotiate

One evening a few weeks ago, I had a welcome surprise to receive a phone call from Alan Moore, a member of the Society who, a good few years ago, used to live at Stockbridge with his wife Sonja.

I can still remember some of the pleasant Committee meetings that were held at their house.

Alan and Sonja decided to move north to their current house beside the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal at Hopwas to be nearer the canal system and, not surprisingly, they found it a little difficult to get along to our meetings.

Alan asked if I would like to publish a story by his son about having their boat lengthened. Delighted to I said and the result is printed above.

Thank you to Jenny and Mike for a most interesting article.

our first lock with a full-length narrowboat. Luckily all went well, but because the boat had not yet been fully fitted out and ballasted in the new section, steering was light and stopping was interesting! It gave us an idea of what it would be like and gave us an ideal chance to finalise the design of the new cabin.

The boat was finally finished in December and cruised back to Hopwas where I began the task of putting three coats of International Yacht varnish on the new woodwork. We had ordered a new mattress (the boat now has a wider double bed across the boat, with a removable mattress section, an extra three drawer chest and a extra wardrobe in the main bedroom) and a washing machine. The washing machine is in the new cabin, along with a second loo, a welsh dresser (actually built by a Welshman), a solid fuel fire, and plenty of space for the grand-daughter to sleep. A side hatch on each side completes the new cabin. All that remains is to repaint the new section when the weather improves.

We now have a lot more wardrobe and storage place, and somewhere to wipe off the dogs when they come in from their walks, somewhere to put a bed for the grand-daughter and somewhere to dry the washing without it getting in the way of the television.

Was it all worth it? The cost was not cheap but there again, having a new 70 footer built to your own specification these days would cost a fortune. The alterations took far longer than we had anticipated (doesn't it always!), and also cost more than we expected (again doesn't it always!) but after experiencing the extra space for a couple of months, plus the bonus of a washing machine, second loo and all the other new bits and pieces the answer has to be a resounding yes.

*Jenny and Mike
n.b. GUELROSE*

Otters Holt
Hopwas

Dear Peter

As I mentioned in my phone call we have a 150ft mooring. Any Society member is welcome to moor at Otters Holt overnight. We always enjoy meeting boaters and having a chat.

Thanks for sending on the newsletters, its nice to keep in touch with what is happening at Southampton.

Please give our regards to all our old friends at the canal society.

All the best
Sonja & Alan

PUBLIC BOAT TRIPS

The following is a list of trip boats on inland waterways providing trips for the public during 2005 within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. It has been compiled from various websites and is as complete as the editor can ascertain. However, no responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions. To avoid disappointment, the operators should be contacted on the telephone numbers listed.

Basingstoke Canal

John Pinkerton

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday each month from 17 April to 2 October. Every Wednesday and Friday from 27 July to 2 September. Leave Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham at 14.30 for 2½ hour trip. Fares: Adults £6.00, Children (under 16) £3.00, Senior Citizens £5.00.

Sunday and Monday 1 & 2 May, Sunday and Monday 28 & 29 August. Leave Fox & Hounds, Fleet for 1¼ hour trip at 11.30, 13.30 & 15.30. Fares: Adults £3.50, Children (under 16) £2.00.

Sunday and Monday 29 & 30 May. Leave Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham for 2 hour trip at 11.00, 13.15 & 15.30. Fares: Adults £5.00, Children (under 16) £2.00.

Pre-booking for Public Trips is advisable. For advice, information and advance bookings on public trips please contact: Mrs Marion Gough: 01962 713564 (10am - 8pm) No Dogs (except Guide Dogs) can be taken on public trips. Web: www.cobweb.org.uk/shcc/jp_index.html Charter trips for up to 50 available.

Daydream and Merlin

50 minute trips aboard 12 seater boat Daydream or on busy days, Merlin, are scheduled every afternoon during Surrey School Holidays, Weekends, and Bank Holidays from the last weekend in March until the end of September from Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mychett. Telephone 01252-378779 or 07930-419981 and ask for Jackie or Tony for exact times. Trips for 2005 not confirmed (these are 2004 details). Website: www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk

Chichester Canal

Egremont

Cruises on n/b Egremont on Chichester Canal available all year. Bookings: Jenny Pine 01243 670786 Enquiries: 01243 771363. No other details to hand.

Kennet and Avon Canal

Lancing

Every Sunday afternoon, 1½ hour trip from Cuning Man, Burghfield. Fares: Adults £6.50, Children (5-15) £3.25. Further details from Norman and Jennifer Briggs on 0118 987 1115. Email: info@kennetcruises.co.uk

Booking in advance is not normally necessary but it is advisable to check for last minute changes. Also operate cruises around Reading Town Centre from Queens Road Car Park. Private charters will be take precedence over the public trips but at least 2 weeks notice of any such changes will be given on the website: www.kennetcruises.co.uk

Kennet Valley and Avon

The former is a horse drawn boat operating from Kintbury, the latter a motor barge from Newbury Wharf. Public trip timetable available in April. Kennet Horse Boat Co - Steve & Charlotte Butler: 01488 658866 Email: info@kennet-horse-boat.co.uk Web: www.kennet-horse-boat.co.uk

Rose of Hungerford

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust operate 1½ - 2 hour return trips past Dunmill Lock on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from April to end October. Also on Wednesdays, June to September. Leaves Hungerford Wharf at 14.30. Also trips at 11.30 on Wednesdays in July and August. Fares: Adults £5, Senior Citizen £4, Children 3-15 £3, Family (2 adults, 2 children) £14.

No booking required, but you are advised to arrive ½ hour before departure time at peak season in order to avoid disappointment. Additional evening and weekday trips are also run during the summer months and special evening theme trips are run regularly.

Private return charter trips throughout the year available for up to 50. Booking Managers (Richard and Diana): 01488 683389.

Web: www.katrtrust.org/hungerfo.htm

Kenavon Venture

Operated by White Horse Boats on Sundays, Bank Holiday Mondays from Easter to end September and on Saturdays in July and August from Devizes Wharf at 14.00 returning 15.30. Wednesday trips by prior booking only ~ minimum 15 people.

On May Day Holiday, ¾ hour trips all day from 11.00 to 16.00. Public entertainment on Wharf all day from 10.00.

Public trips are liable to change at short notice and delays may occasionally occur due to low water levels. Please phone (01380) 728504 or (07976) 162223 to confirm. Email: enquiries@whitehorseboats.co.uk Web: www.whitehorseboats.co.uk Charter trips for up to 50 also available.

Barbara McLellan

Trips run by Kennet & Avon Canal Trust leave the Wharf on the Frome Rd, Bradford on Avon to:

Meadows Bridge on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays to end September at 11.30 returning 12.30. Fares: Adults £4, Over 60's & School Children £3.00, Children under 5 free, Family £11.00.

Avoncliff on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays to end October at 14.30 returning 16.00 (not Wed 19 May). Fares: Adults £5.50, Over 60's & School Children £4.50, Children under 5 free, Family £15.00.

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PUBLIC TRIP BOATS

(Continued from page 4)

Widbrook on Sundays and Bank Holidays from June to end October at 16.30 returning 17.30. Fares: Adults £4, Over 60's & School Children £3.00, Children under 5 free, Family £11.00.

Advance booking is available at the Wharf Shop (on towpath side of canal) for all trips, apart from August, when booking can only be made on the day of the trip. All pre-booked trips must be paid for in advance. Boarding takes place 20 minutes before departure. Special and private charter trips available for up to 51 adults.

Boat Booking Manager: 01225 868683.

E-mail: Westwiltsbook@aol.com

Web: www.katrust.org/schedule.htm

Jubilee

Operated from Brassknocker Basin Visitor Centre, on A36, 5 miles S of Bath by Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.

At 12.00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 4 April to 24 October to Claverton and Conkwell returning 14.00. Fares: Adults £5, Seniors £4, Children under 16 £2.50, under 5 free.

At 14.30 on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 4 April to 24 October and Tuesdays from June to September to Avoncliffe returning 17.30. Fares: Adults £6, Seniors £5, Children under 16 £3, under 5 free.

At 14.30 on Thursdays from June to September to Bathampton returning 17.30. Fares Adults £6, Seniors £5, Children under 16 £3, under 5 free.

Booking and details from Mike Kelham: 01749 850169. Web: www.bath-narrowboat-trips.co.uk/jubilee_2_001.htm

Private charter trips available for up to 30 adults.

Wey and Arun Canal

Zachariah Keppel

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust runs a 50ft trip boat capable of carrying up to 30 passengers, named after the contractor originally engaged to build the canal.

Cruises usually start from the Onslow Arms, although when work starts on Brewhurst Lock in May/June, public trips will depart from the landing stage below Brewhurst Lock which is only a short walk from the Onslow Arms, which is alongside the B2133 road in Loxwood (OS Map grid reference TQ 041312).

Trips from the Onslow Arms:

Saturdays and public holidays depart at 13.00 and 14.00 lasting 45 minutes. Fares: Adult £4, Child £2.

Saturday departure at 15.00 lasting 2½ hours. Fares: Adult £10, Child (5-16) £5.

Sunday departures at 13.00, 14.00, 15.00 & 16.00. Fares: Adult £4, Child £2.

Trips from below Brewhurst Lock:

Saturdays depart at 13.00 and 14.00 lasting 45 minutes. Fares: Adult £4, Child £2.

Saturday departure at 15.00 lasting 2 hours. Fares: Adult £7, Child (5-16) £4.

Sunday departures at 13.00, 14.00, 15.00 & 16.00. Fares: Adult £4, Child £2.

Standard public trips do not require pre-booking, but availability can be confirmed by checking with the WACT office: 01403 752403 (weekday mornings plus answerphone). It is now possible to reserve tickets in advance for the 2 and 2½ hour cruises by telephoning the office but there will always be at least 10 tickets available for purchase on the day.

Private charter bookings are also available. In addition to the 30 seat "Zachariah Keppel" the Trust operates the 12 seat "John Smallpeice" for smaller parties. Please contact the office for booking details and prices. Website: www.weyandarun.co.uk/zk.htm

Wey and Godalming Navigations

Unnamed boat

Run from Dapdune Wharf, Guildford by the National Trust, river trips on electric launch. 19 March to 30 October: Thursday to Monday, 11-5 (conditions permitting). Tel: 01483 561389. Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/places/riverwey/index.html

Harry Stevens

60 seat boat operated by Guildford Boat House. Public trips on Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holiday Mondays, Wednesdays (from 18 May), Tuesdays and Thursdays (from 16 July to 4 September):

Depart from Town Wharf, Guildford 13.45, Guildford Boat House 14.15, to St Catherine, return Boat House at 15.15 (does not return to Town Wharf).

Depart from Guildford Boat House 15.30 to St Catherine's Lock, return at 16.15.

Fares: 45 minute trips - Adult £3.25 Child (5-14 years) £2.00 Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 Children) £8.50

Longer trips - Adult £5.25 Child (5-14years) £2.50 Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 Children) £13.00

Children under 5 free, but must be declared for safety reasons For up to the minute info telephone the Talking Timetable on 01483 536186. No pre-booking - just turn up and pay on board.

Boat also available for "group trips". Website: www.guildfordboats.co.uk

Iona

Godalming Packetboat Company operate the horse drawn Iona from Godalming Wharf (by entrance to Sainsbury's). There are 2 hour public trips most days from Easter to the end of September, but please ring 01483 414938 to confirm times of trips (usually 2.30 pm). Fares: Adult £6.75, Children & Senior Citizens £5.25. Charters for up to 48 also available. Website: www.horseboat.org.uk

WATERWAYS DIARY

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Hopefully you can find something to interest you.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to supply further details of that event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 7 Apr 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal with Cliff Penny. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 10 Apr 2005	Wilts & Berks CT	Chippenham to Lacock Sponsored Walk. Entrance fee £3 per family group.	Peter Williams: 01 249 652248. Email: Peter.Williams32@btinternet.com
Wed 20 Apr 2005 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	'Barging through Eastern Germany' with Robin Higgs. The Society's own Vice President returns with another of his holiday travels. This one showing his cruise through Eastern Europe on his friend's barge. Parish Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, Woking	Peter Coxhead: 01932 344564
Sun 24 Apr 2005 10.00am	National Motor Museum	Beaulieu Boat Jumble. Beaulieu Motor Museum, Europe's biggest boat jumble with over 800 stalls. Admission: £8.00	Tel: 01590 612888 Email: events@beaulieu.co.uk
Sun 8 May 2005	Southampton CS	Society trip to the Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, West Sussex. Please note that this is the amended date. See front page of Newsletter.	Maureen Greenham: 023 8040 6951 Email: maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com
Sun 8 May 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Arun - The Gerry and Ivy Skinner Memorial Cruise. From Littlehampton (for larger craft at 10.00am) and Pulborough (smaller boats at 2.00pm) to Pallingham.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Thu 12 May 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'Valley of the Barn Owls' by Dennis Bright. Please note that this date is the 2nd Thursday of the month. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sun 15 May 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Guided walk along the Somerset Coal Canal. This will include access to the Caisson lock and other areas not normally open to the public. Group transport to start point. Finish with a pub lunch.	Roger Hollands: 01249 650952
Thu 19 May 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	'Southampton & Salisbury Canal'. History and pictures of this local canal with Peter Oates. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sun 22 May 2005	IWA Salisbury Group	Visiting sites on the Southampton & Salisbury Canal by car and a walk along some of the remaining canal with Peter Oates. Followed by lunch at the Green Dragon, Alderbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Sun 22 May 2005	Wey & Arun CT and IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Small Boat Rally. From the Onslow Arms at Loxwood, on the B2133 north-west of Billingshurst, to and over the new Drungewick Aqueduct. A one-day event - but boats wishing to stay on the canal for the weekend should contact WACT.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk or Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sat 28 - Sun 29 May 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Boat Club Gathering at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham.	Tel: 01252 663674
Thu 2 Jun 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'A Day in the Life of a Thames Tug' with Richard Thomas. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 4 Jun 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Langstone & Chichester Harbours - Bullion Run along the barge route from Portsmouth. Delivery of restoration funds: Portsmouth to Salterns Lock.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 5 Jun 2005 10.30am for 11.00am start	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	Chichester Ship Canal - from Salterns lock to Chichester Canal Basin. Bullion run part two. To navigate and portage the complete length of the Canal from the harbour to the city basin. About 2 hours duration.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 12 Jun 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Puddle 05 - Sponsored walk on and near Wey & Arun Canal.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 25 Jun 2005 11.00am - 5.00pm	Reading Borough Council/Kennet & Avon CT	Reading Water Fest. On the Kennet, Abbey Ruins, Riverside Museum.	Jo Keen: 0118 939 0373
Sat 2 Jul 2005 12.00 - 6.00pm	National Trust	Guildford Boat Gathering on River Wey at Millmead, Guildford. Admission free.	Tel: 01483 561389 Email: riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk
Thu 7 Jul 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"The Itchen Navigation Project" by Leah Mathias. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Sat 9 Jul 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Adur, Shoreham to Upper Beeding and back. A cruise to campaign for the retention and provision of public slipway access to the River Adur at Shoreham. Launch by 12:00 with 4 hours on the water.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Fri 15 Jul 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Mikron Theatre at Fishers Park, Wisborough Green, West Sussex.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
Sat 16 Jul 2005	Wey & Arun CT	Haybarn Bridge re-opening.	WACT: 01403 752403 Email: wact@weyandarun.freeserve.co.uk
Sun 17 Jul 2005 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre Company. 'Wheel of Fortune' - story of the Falkirk Wheel. Fox & Hounds, Crookham Road, Fleet.	
Thu 21 Jul 2005 7.00pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Boules and BBQ at The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net

Waterways Diary 2005 *(continued from page 4)*

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 28 Jul 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting and Waterway Videos. Please note that this is the "August" meeting. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
31 Jul 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Water Festival, Victoria Park, Newbury.	Jane Elwell: 01635 569647
Sun 7 Aug 2005 11.00am	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Itchen at Winchester. A cruise on the top pound of the Itchen Navigation for unpowered and electric powered boats. Launch over bank at Tun Bridge.	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Fox and Hounds Boat Rally at Fleet.	Tel: 01252 663674
Thu 1 Sept 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'The Work of the Upper Severn Trust' with Jeremy Coles. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 15 Sept 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	'The Caldon Canal'. Talk and video with Tony Fry. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Fri 16 - Sun 25 Sept 2005	British Marine Federation	Southampton Boat Show.	Tel: 01784 223600
Sat 17 - Sun 18 Sept 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Boat Club Moving Rally. Narrowboats, cruisers, steam boats and more will cruise together between Frimley and Odiham as part of a spectacular moving boat rally.	Tel: 01252 663674
Sun 18 Sept 2005	IWA Solent & Arun Branch	River Hamble: Swanwick to Curbridge & Botley. Cruise to celebrate the completion of the Bark Store restoration at Botley, and its use as a canoe and boat club centre for the Upper Hamble. Launch Warsash 10.00am, Swanwick 11.00am, out by 6.00pm	Peter Boyce: 023 9226 9642 Email: pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk
Thu 13 Oct 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'So you think you know about Industrial Archaeology?' with John Silman and Tony Yoward. NB: this date is the 2nd Thursday of the month. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 3 Nov 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	'South Coast Circular Cruise' by James Griffin. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Thu 17 Nov 2005 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	'Lots to do at the Soo'. A look at some North American waterways with Colin Ward. The Green Dragon, Alderbury, near Salisbury, Wilts.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841 or Ron & Myra Glover 01722 710322 Email: ronmyra.glover@virgin.net
Thu 1 Dec 2005 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Holiday 25 Mar to 30 Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm (Weds 4.00pm). Pumping days: 27-28 Mar, 24 Apr, 2 May, 29-30 May, 25-26 Jun, 23-24 Jul, 28-29 Aug, 25 Sep, 23 Oct. Admission: Pumping days: £3 Static days: £2	Tel: 01225 483001. Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org/
Every day from 25 Mar to 2 Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station. Open 10.00am - 5.00pm. See below for Steaming Days. Admission: Adults £3.00, Seniors £2.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults & 2 children) £7.00	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/
Mar to Oct 2005	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Days on 26-28 Mar, 30 Apr - 2 May, 28-30 May, 25-26 Jun, 30-31 Jul, 27-29 Aug, 1-2 Oct 2005 (10.30am - 5.00pm). Adults £4.50, Seniors £3.50, Children £1.00 (under 5 free), Families (2 adults, 2 children) £10.00.	Tel: 01672 870300. Email: eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org/

CHARLIE MEAD

Those members who were at the IWA's Jubilee celebrations in Romsey nine years ago will remember the mayor and mayoress having a ride on the Romsey Canal.

Romsey has been mourning the loss of Charlie Mead who was the town's first citizen for five years between 1989 and 1997. Glowing tributes have been paid to the 92 year old who died this month, just weeks after his beloved wife, Eileen, passed away. Whilst in office, he and his wife carried out between 400 and 500 engagements annually.

Whilst his trip on the canal was only one of these engagements, I will remember with affection the whole-hearted way he joined in our celebrations. I am saddened by the passing of a true gentleman.

Peter Oates



SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm.
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.
Email: paul@herbertpaul.wanadoo.co.uk

Secretary:

Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft, Calmore, Southampton, SO40 2SS. Tel: 023 8086 0384
E-mail: sue.eric.lewis@ukonline.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Laura Sturrock, 27 Northlands Road, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5RU. Tel 01794 517614
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Peter Oates,
Paul Taylor,
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Email: peter@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

<http://www.whitenap.plus.com>

The Itchen Navigation Project

(Continued from page 1)

historic built structures also provide suitable conditions for a range of organisms, particularly lower plants, invertebrates and lichens.

The economic interests and technological advances that were embodied in the creation of the navigation have long since ceased to be relevant. In consequence the navigation fell into disuse and the maintenance of the fabric and structures of the navigation have been all but suspended for a considerable amount of time. However, within this process of abandonment the nature conservation interest has been strengthened. This importance is recognised in its designation as a cSAC, by definition, of European importance, and as such it now enjoys protection from the adverse impacts of development.

The river system, together with its associated ground-water, is heavily used for abstraction, discharges, fish farming, watercress growing and recreational fishing.

As the Itchen Navigation is an important part of Hampshire's industrial heritage, an internationally important

habitat and a well-used recreational resource, the local authorities and other appropriate agencies decided that it was in the public interest to preserve and enhance it. No local organisation had either the duty or the resources to do this and external funding, hopefully from the Heritage Lottery Fund, would be needed.

A partnership project has therefore been developed to preserve the navigation for the future, to conserve and enhance its wildlife interests and to create a heritage trail along the Itchen Valley incorporating heritage, archaeology, education, public access and amenity value. The project will be focused on preserving the fabric and structures of the waterway, safeguarding and enhancing the wildlife interests and improving access, understanding and enjoyment of the navigation by the public using the footpath. Whilst the project seeks to conserve the navigation and the nature conservation importance, it is not an objective of the project to restore the navigation as a functioning canal.

The project's partners comprise Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council, the Environment Agency and English Nature. A Project Officer, Leah Mathias, was appointed in August 2004 to run the planning phase of the project. Leah is employed by Hampshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of the partnership.

The project has received a grant of £48,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a period of twelve months. That money, along with funding from the Environment Agency, will be used to assess the status of the Itchen Navigation, in terms of management, nature conservation, heritage and access. Plans will then be formulated, in consultation with stakeholders, to preserve the navigation for the next century. A bid for further funds will then be submitted to the HLF for project development and capital works.

Consultants have been engaged to examine a number of aspects including engineering, visitor access and expectations, legal status etc. A conservation management plan will outline a co-ordinated approach to the future management of the navigation. It will bring together all existing work, management and initiatives as far as possible to avoid duplication of others efforts. It will form the overriding project document detailing long-term management and maintenance strategy, proposals for repair and restoration, project development, and access and audience strategies.

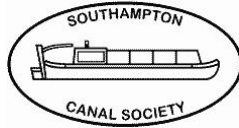
A number of consultation meetings have been held to date and others are planned for the near future in order to discuss the proposed plans and agree a way forward.

(The above article has been based on information published in Issue 1, December 2004, of 'Itchen Navigation News' – the newsletter of the Itchen Navigation Project).

Both Southampton Canal Society and the Inland Waterways Association (Solent & Arun Branch) have been involved in the consultation process, Paul Herbert and Peter Oates representing the Society.

Leah Mathias, the Itchen Navigation Project Officer, has kindly agreed to attend the Society's July meeting to give a presentation on the project and to outline the proposed plans for the future.

Paul Herbert



Newsletter

Addendum

April 2005

Unfortunately, this is the time for your editor to come clean and admit his shortcomings. One of the first contributions received for this month's edition has been omitted from the main Newsletter which has already gone to press. As it's not an item which can be held over to next month, there's no alternative but to produce this little extra.

WEALD & DOWNLAND VISIT 8 MAY

The guided tour is now booked for 10.45am as the Museum likes visitors to arrive 30 mins prior to the tour (for coffee, toilet stop etc) so please arrive at 10.15am, park in the visitor car park and wait by the entrance. We will go in together.

There is an Egon Ronay recommended self service café at which light hot and cold lunches, snacks and hot and cold drinks are served. There are sandwiches, salads, jacket potatoes and cakes amongst other things and all the food is home made. Alternatively, picnics may be eaten anywhere on the site and there is outdoor and under cover seating.

As stated previously, after the tour (approximately 12.30pm) we will have lunch and regroup at 1.30pm for the Gridshell tour.

There are a few vacancies if anyone else wishes to join us. If transport is a problem please see Maureen Greenham and we will do all we can to get you a lift on the day.

I can be contacted by telephone on 023 8040 6951 or e-mail: maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com

Maureen Greenham