



Chairman's Column

April Meeting

We are delighted to welcome Steve Haywood to our April meeting with tales from his book, "Fruit Flies Like a Banana".

Skittles Evening

A most successful and enjoyable Society Skittles Evening was held at 'The Kings Head' in Hursley on 15 March. Further details on page 2 of this Newsletter.

2008 Society Spring Outing

To date, bookings for our Spring Outing on the Basingstoke Canal and 'The Watercress Line' on Saturday 19 April are well below par. Maureen works hard to organise interesting outings for us and I would appeal to the membership to support these special events. Don't forget, you can bring family and friends along to swell the numbers, thereby making it a memorable day out for all. Further details of this outing are on the back page of this Newsletter.

"All Aboard the Zachariah Keppel"

Tony Shadick, though not a member of the Society, has accompanied a number of our trips and our outing to the Wey & Arun Canal and Brewhurst Mill at Loxwood on 21 April 2007 was no exception. Tony filmed that outing and he has kindly donated to the

Society Library a 17min DVD of our trip on "Zachariah Keppel" (edited) and a 15min DVD of Brewhurst Mill (as it came out of the camera). Many thanks Tony.

Tony has worked at Horsebridge Mill at Kings Somborne for nearly 40 years when it was turned into workshops to build engineering teaching equipment. However, he never saw the milling equipment there so our visit to Brewhurst Mill gave him a good idea what Horsebridge Mill would have looked like in bygone days.

March Newsletter – Review of Harry Arnold

In my review of Harry Arnold's talk at our February meeting I referred to a figure of 2,500,000 images. I know I picked up that information from somewhere, but cannot remember where. In hindsight, I think that figure should have read 250,000 images (or is that even too many???)

May Meeting

Don't forget, our 'May' meeting will actually be held on the last Thursday in April, viz. 24 April, when Clive Field's talk will be about 'Narrowboats to Norway'.

Paul Herbert

IWA takes on TESCO over abandoned trolleys

Essex Waterways Ltd, the subsidiary company of The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) which currently manages the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, has recovered its costs for removal of supermarket trolleys from the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation at Heybridge. Payment of IWA's bill enabled TESCO Stores Ltd. to narrowly avoid civil proceedings.

Following the payment of IWA's costs in full, TESCO has introduced new procedures to reduce the likelihood of abandoned trolleys within the waterway, and has introduced its own recovery process through an arrangement with a specialist subcontractor.

Neil Edwards, IWA's chief executive and Company Secretary of Essex Waterways Ltd said:

"We are pleased that we have been able to recover our costs in full and ensure that a longer term solution to the problem of trolleys being abandoned in the waterway has been resolved".

"In taking on TESCO, IWA has been able to demonstrate that an assertive and persistent attitude to the issue of supermarket trolleys being abandoned in waterways can achieve a positive and sustainable outcome at no economic loss to the waterway manager taking the action".

"IWA believes that the larger navigation authorities should take a more proactive and sustained assertive approach to known trolley hotspots and ensure that our waterways are freed from the scourge of abandoned trolleys once and for all".

IWA Press Release - 19 March 2008

IWA's 2009 National Festival

The Inland Waterways Association has announced that its 2009 National Festival & Boat Show will be held at Red Hill, near Ratcliffe on Soar, on the Soar Navigation, close to its confluence with the river Trent, and the junctions with the Erewash, and Trent & Mersey canals, just south of Nottingham.

IWA hopes to encourage boaters visiting the Festival to try the Erewash and Chesterfield canals and other lesser frequented waterways of the East Midlands. The Festival also intends to raise the profile and give support to waterway societies in the area, including the Derby, Cromford and Grantham

canals all of which are currently under restoration.

IWA's National Festival brings hundreds of exhibitors and visiting boats as well as thousands of visitors to an area, offering a great day out for families as well as raising the profile of the waterways with local authorities and business communities. In 2007 the Festival was held in St Ives, Huntingdon and the local authority estimated that the event brought over a million pounds into the local economy as a result.

IWA Press Release - 5 March 2008

March Meeting

Richard Thomas – The Highland Canals

It was good to welcome back Richard Thomas to the Society as he has spoken to us on a number of previous occasions. We are grateful to him for making the long journey from his home base in Hertfordshire.

First, a bit of history about Richard. He gave his first talk in 1988 and in 1994 he joined a few other Herts IWA members to present a series of waterway talks for the W.E.A. He went on to combine his growing interest in historical research and inland waterways, developing a gradually increasing repertoire. He now travels far and wide giving talks to organisations of all kinds. Although many of his talks are on waterway subjects, he also lectures on historical subjects including Roman roads and the Gunpowder Plot. In 2005 he converted to digital technology and set up his aptly named 'All Talk Thomas' website!

The current talk is one of Richard's most recently prepared presentations which explores Scotland's Highland Canals – a long way to go to research, but so much fun, it was definitely worth his journeys.

Scotland's Highland Canals comprise the Caledonian Canal and the Crinan Canal - the Forth & Clyde Canal and The Union Canal being known as The Lowland Canals. The Caledonian runs from Inverness on the Moray Firth to Fort William at the head of Loch Linnhe, whilst the short Crinan Canal running between Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne and Crinan, provides a safe alternative to voyaging around the Mull of Kintyre, cutting over 160km (100 miles) off the journey time.

The Caledonian Canal, which cuts through the Great Glen, is 96.6km (60 miles) in length, of which 35.4km (22 miles) is man made, connecting the natural fresh water lochs of Loch Lochy, Loch Oich, the famous Loch Ness and Loch Dochfour. It has 29

locks and 10 swing bridges. The principal engineers were William Jessop and Thomas Telford. The original purpose of this ship canal was to enable naval and other sailing vessels to avoid the treacherous Pentland Firth and Cape Wrath. Partly complete by 1822, a further 25 years were to pass before it was fully completed. By that time the advent of bigger steamships had diminished the canal's role and it was never a major commercial success.

The Crinan Canal is 14km (9 miles) in length and contains 15 locks. Thomas Telford superintended the execution of the work, which was beset by difficulties, including some re-routing. The canal was finally completed in 1809 but it never became financially self-supporting. Between 1930 and 1932 new sea locks were constructed at either end of the canal, making it accessible at any state of the tide. Richard included a photograph of the Puffer 'Vital Spark' in Crinan Harbour – a vessel well known to television viewers many years ago.

Today, both canals depend mainly on leisure use for their continuing survival.

Richard showed members a large and varied collection of digital images, many based on old photographs and postcards, including old photographs of the Dingwall Canal and the Rosehall Canal (the most northerly canal in Britain), and a number of then and now shots.

Many thanks Richard for such an entertaining evening and we look forward to welcoming you back to Chilworth on a future occasion.

(I had to leave the March meeting shortly after it started and was not, therefore, present to do my usual write-up. I am indebted to Eric Lewis for taking some notes on which the above, plus my subsequent Internet research, is based).

Paul Herbert

Society Skittles Evening

A near capacity group of twenty nine Society members and their guests enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining Skittles Evening at 'The Kings Head' in Hursley on Friday 14 March.

The organisation by Rogan and Lynn Olding was excellent; the sporting competition was excellent (although a little rowdy at times!); and the food was excellent.

At the previous skittles evening we had been organised into men's and ladies teams of two but, on this occasion, it was a mixed pair's competition, which added to the fun.

In the end it was a close run thing with three teams well out in front, with the winning combination of Brenda Pomeroy and Eric Lewis crossing the line first, by just one point, and were duly awarded their prizes of large tins of chocolate goodies, together with their Winners Certificates.

That is the second year running that Eric has shared the winning spot – last time he and Alan Howarth had won the men's event. (There were clandestine whispers that he would have to be nobbled next time!).

This was another excellent evening, enjoyed by all. Many thanks were given to Rogan and Lynn for organising the event and they were presented with a bottle of wine as a small token of our appreciation. They indicated their willingness to organise another similar event in due course.



Paul Herbert



Waterways Diary

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed

contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 3 Apr 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Steve Haywood with "Fruit Flies Like a Banana" based on his book of the same name. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Wed 16 Apr 2008 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"The History of Tooley's Boatyard in Banbury" with Matthew Armitage. Pavilion, Station Road, Chobham, Surrey.	David Millett: 01252 617364
Sat 19 Apr 2008	Southampton CS	Spring outing will be to the Basingstoke Canal and The Watercress Line. Cost: £16 adults, £8 for children. Meet at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham at 10.30am. See article on page 1.	Maureen Greenham: 023 8040 6951 Email: maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com
Sun 20 Apr 2008 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk from Midford to Twinhoe. Meet Twinhoe Lane, Midford (Do not take up parking space at Hope & Anchor).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
Thu 24 Apr 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Narrowboats to Norway" by Clive Field. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton. (NB This is the "May" meeting)	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Fri 25 Apr 2008 7.45 for 8.00	Kennet & Avon CT	"The story of Bailey Bridging" with Pablo Haworth. Turnham's Farm Hall, Little Heath Road, Tilehurst, Reading.	John or Pam Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Sun 27 Apr 2008	Cotswold CT	Canamble - sponsored walk to include the whole of Phase 1A of the restoration. Starting from Ebley Mill, Stroud.	Sponsor forms - Tel: 07811 529230 Email: canamble@raash31.co.uk Web: www.cotswoldcanals.com
Sun 27 Apr 2008 10.00am	Wilts & Berks CT	Annual fundraising walk from Chippenham to Pewsham (8 miles).	Peter Williams: Email: peter.williams32@btinternet.com
Wed 30 Apr 2008 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Branch AGM + K&A review. The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, Newbury, Berks.	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 15 May 2008 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Roger Cansdale from the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society will be talking about "The Basingstoke Canal - Past present and future". The Green Dragon, Alderbury, nr Salisbury, Wiltshire.	Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841. Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: glover3@gotadsl.co.uk
Sun 18 May 2008 9.30am	Wey & Arun CT	Small boats rally at Loxwood. Entry forms from contacts on right.	Tel: 01483 503029 Email: rallies@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/events2.php
Sat 24 May 2008	Wey & Arun CT	Whiskey Cruise: Whiskey tasting and boat trip to Drungewick. Tickets will be available shortly. To reserve a space, please contact the office.	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk/events2.php
Fri 30 May 2008 7.45 for 8.00	Kennet & Avon CT	"BATS" with Tony Vetta. Turnham's Farm Hall, Little Heath Road, Tilehurst, Reading.	John or Pam Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: johns@360swift.com
Thu 5 Jun 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Bob Dukes with a talk entitled "Silk: Myth and Mystery". The history of how it came from China, getting silk production going in Europe, UK and America, industrialisation, etc Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Soton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Sun 8 Jun 2008 Start 9.00 to 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	The "Puddle" Annual sponsored walk. Starts from North Hall (village hall), Loxwood, West Sussex. Figure of 8 walk - 15 miles round, 7½ miles in morning and 7½ in afternoon. Sponsorship forms from contacts on right.	Tel: 01403 752403 E-mail: puddle@weyandarun.co.uk Website: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 28 Jun 2008 1.00 to 4.00pm	Sussex Industrial Archeology Soc	Guided Walk: Poyntz Bridge and Short Industrial Walk of Southgate, Chichester. Cross the Chichester Ship Canal on the unique 1820 cast iron Poyntz swing bridge, just south of the Chichester Canal basin. FREE!	Tel: 01243 576701
Thu 3 Jul 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Dennis Bright with another illustrated wildlife talk "Wild West Wales". Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 3 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Talk: The Past, Present and Future of the Chichester Ship Canal given by Rick Travis, Chairman of the Canal Trust, at Committee Room 3, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. Tickets £3.00	Brian Bacon: 01243 263544
Sat 5 Jul 2008 10.00am	Sussex Industrial Archeology Soc	Walk Part of the Old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Road, Barnham to walk to Hunston. Approx. 5 mile walk, allow 4 hours. Bring a packed lunch. Return journey by bus. FREE!	Tel: 01243 576701
Sat-Sun 5-6 July 2008 10.00 - 5.00	Cotswolds CT	Saul Canal Festival. Adults: £6.00 accompanied children (under 16): free. Saul Junction, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal Nr Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire GL2 7LA	Festival Administrator: 01285 643440 Email: scf-info@junctionevents.org.uk Web: www.junctionevents.org.uk
Sat 12 Jul 2008 7.30pm	Chichester Ship CT	Mikron Theatre Company present: "Fair Trade". The history of the cooperative movement in the North of England from it's beginnings in Rochdale in 1844 to a world-wide membership of 750 million.	Tickets £7.00 from Linda Wilkinson, 1 Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester, PO18 8TL
Sun 27 Jul 2008 10.00 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Waterways Festival at Victoria Park, Newbury	Graham Smith: 01635 580356 Email: GrahamV.Smith@virgin.net
Thu 31 Jul 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Annual General Meeting. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 4 Sep 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Dave Yaldren will show film and talk about the Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 2 Oct 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Day-Star Theatre with "Put that light out!" which follows the fortunes of Elsie Roberts, a young mother of two, from 1939 to 1945. Followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com
Thu 6 Nov 2008 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Paul Barnett with an illustrated talk about "The Purton Hulks" beached along the River Severn to Protect The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal from erosion. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.	Angela Rose: 02380 403982 Email: info@apas-engineering.com

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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.

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Brian Evans.

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Society Website:

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

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Water-ways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.

SOCIETY SPRING OUTING

BASINGSTOKE CANAL



Departing on the John Pinkerton from Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham at 10.30am for 2½ hr cruise

THE WATERCRESS LINE



Departing from Alresford Station at 3.00pm for Alton and return at 4.29pm

SATURDAY 19 APRIL 2008 - Adults: £16 Children: £8

Bookings and further information from

MAUREEN GREENHAM Tel: 023 8040 6951 Email: maureen.greenham@dsl.pipex.com

Our spring outing will be to the Basingstoke Canal and The Watercress Line on Saturday 19 April and the cost will be £16 for adults and £8 for children.

Our day begins at 10.30am at Odiham where we board the John Pinkerton for a 2½ hour (approximately) cruise along the Basingstoke Canal. There is a toilet and bar on board. We can take food but not drinks which have to be purchased at the bar. The boat takes up to 50 people so bring along your family and friends. (N.B. There is a chance that the boat may leave from Mychett if a bridge

between Odiham and Mychett has not been repaired by 19 April).

When we leave the boat we have approximately 2 hours before our train journey at 3 pm and there are several places to eat in Alresford not far from the station, and also places en route.

We have reserved seats on the 3pm train which travels to Alton and returns to Alresford at 4.29pm

Please let me have the names of interested parties and full payment by 5 April.

Maureen Greenham

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Sun 6 & 20 Apr, 25 May, 8 & 22 Jun, 6 & 20 Jul 2008 2.00pm		Guided tours through the remains of the Purton Hulks led by Paul Barnett, Marine Historian . Meet Purton Lower Bridge, Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (OS ref S0692044) .	Tel: 07833 143231 Email: barnadillo@aol.com
21 Mar - 28 Sep 2008 10.30 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station open every day for static viewing. See below for steaming weekends. Adults £4.50, Seniors £4.00, Children £2.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £11.00, Children under 5 free	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
3-5 May 24-26 May, 28-29 Jun, 26-27 Jul 2008	Kennet & Avon CT	Crofton Pumping Station - Steaming weekends. Adults £7.00, Seniors £6.00, Children £2.50, Families (2 adults & 2 children) £16.00, Children under 5 free	Tel: 01672 870300 Email: er23fc45@CroftonBeamEngines.org Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
23 Mar - 25 Oct 2008 10:00 - 5:00 (4:00 Weds)	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station open every day for static viewing of the waterwheel and pump. See below for pumping days. Admission £2.50, Children under 16 free, but all children must be accompanied by an adult	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
27 Apr, 5, 25-26 May, 8 & 22 Jun, 13 & 27 Jul 2008 10:00 - 5.00	Kennet & Avon CT	Claverton Pumping Station - Pumping days. Admission £4.00, Children under 16 free, but all children must be accompanied by an adult.	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org