



Newsletter

Chairman's Column

April Meeting

This evening Gordon will welcome Ruth Keer the Community Officer for "Eling Tide Mill". This ancient site is over 900 years old and successive mills and causeway dam have been a feature of the old toll bridge across Eling Creek. Eling is managed by The Eling Experience and is currently closed for major repairs due to be completed in spring 2017.

Proposed Boat Gathering for boaters in the Napton/Braunston area

An informal gathering at Flecknoe and Braunston to be held over the weekend of the early May bank holiday, on Saturday 29th April / 1st May for an afternoon BBQ. And a leisurely cruise to Braunston on Sunday morning.

This is not an organised event, just a small number of boat owners joining up for a casual get-together. Due to family commitments Angela & myself will not be there. Members with boats in area please get-together and enjoy the weekend.

May Meeting

There will be NO May meeting as the hall may be commandeered for local Elections.

June Celebrations

See the item below from Aelred about the celebration of the formation of the Southampton Canal Society fifty years ago. In view of the boat trip, there will be no evening meeting on 1st June.

Alan Rose

Celebrating Fifty Years

Through the generosity of a Society member, who has offered to cover the full cost of hiring John Pinkerton, I am delighted to tell you that there will be no charge for the Society trip on 1st June. On behalf of all members I extend our thanks for this generous offer.

This leaves only the question of any refreshments members may want on the trip. A number of members have said they intend to have lunch at The Waterwitch in Odiham before the trip, so are not interested in further refresh-

ments. Hot drinks and a limited range of snacks are available on the boat. If anyone does want me to organise refreshments please contact me, either at the April meeting or via my email address on the back page of this newsletter. Alan has spoken to the manager at The Waterwitch, who said it would be helpful if people wanting to eat at the pub would look at the menu on their website: www.chefandbrewer.com/pub/waterwitch-odiham-hook/c3350/ and then call them to make a reservation before the day.



The Committee have managed to secure the services of Derek Spruce, President of the Odiham Society and a well known local historian. Derek will be joining us for the trip and will give a talk about the history of Odiham Castle.

The trip will depart from the Wharf at Odiham at 2:30 pm on Thursday, 1st June 2017 and will last approximately 2½ hours. Would members who require help with transport please contact me as above. The absolute maximum number of passengers on John

Pinkerton is 50; this includes a place for Derek Spruce. Currently we have 28 confirmed bookings, with 7 more having expressed an interest. Alan and Angela will not be at the April meeting so please let me know, as above, if you want to come.

As a consequence of the trip there will NO meeting at Chilworth Village Hall on Thursday 1st June 2017.

*Aelred Derbyshire
Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

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Bits and Pieces

IWA Raffle

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust recently received £326.66 as a share of the IWA National Draw that they hold each year. The amount of the share is determined by the number of votes given by the purchasers of the tickets. They are very grateful to IWA and their supporters for this money and will be adding it to the Studley Grange appeal, their flagship project in Royal Wootton Bassett.

Canal Walks

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust have published a number of leaflets about walks along the towpath of the canal. Whilst the whole towpath is not currently walkable, the Trust has risen to the challenge of restoring it along the entire route of the canal. In the meantime, the leaflets can be downloaded from their website:

<https://www.wbct.org.uk/the-canal/>

TV boosts canal holidays

Channel 5's 'Celebrity Carry on Barging' and Channel 4's 'Great Canal Journeys' and other programmes have boosted canal holiday bookings. Ed Helps of ABC Boat Hire says "Since the first episode went out on Friday 17 February, we've seen an uplift in web traffic of nearly 40 percent and our bookings for the last two weeks are up 50 percent on this time last year." Other operators are also seeing a rise on last year's bookings.

Waterways Events

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.

OS grid references and/or postcodes are shown (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event.

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

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Thu 6 Apr 2017 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Eling Tide Mill, the Past and the Future" by Ruth Keer. Visitors welcome. For more information: www.elingexperience.co.uk	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat-Mon 15-17 Apr 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sun 16 Apr 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Sydney Gardens to Bathampton. Along Kennet & Avon towpath.	A36 road bridge, Sydney Gardens, Bath, BA2 6PF (ST758654).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Tue 18 Apr 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	"Horse drawn through the Kennet Valley" with Bill Fisher. £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Wed 19 Apr 2017 8.00pm	Basingstoke CS	"SS Shieldhall - 61 years and counting" - Graham MacKenzie will talk about the history of the largest working steamship in Britain, including information about the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013.	Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615)	Malcolm Brickwood: 07437 200021 Email: chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Thu 20 Apr 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Radstock Branch - Coal, Canal & Tramway" by Roger Halse.	Radstock Working Men's Club, The Street, Radstock, BA3 3PR (ST688547). For location see map here	Steve Page: 01761 433418 Email: membership@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat-Mon 29 Apr- 1 May 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 29 Apr 2017 2.30pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Annual General Meeting.	Cranleigh Village Hall, Village Way, Cranleigh, GU6 8AF (TQ059389).	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: support@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Thu 4 May 2017	Southampton CS	There will be NO meeting - as the hall will be used for elections.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 13 May 2017 10.30am	Kennet & Avon CT	55th Annual General Meeting of the Trust	West Lavington Village Hall Sandfield, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4HL (SU004535).	Trust Office: 01380 721279 Web: katrust.org.uk
Sun 14 May 2017 3.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Pulborough to Pallingham Boat Rally. This aims to confirm the right of navigation on the River Arun above Pulborough, reaching the site of the junction with the Wey and Arun then on to the navigable limit at Pallingham Quay. No entry fee, but donations towards costs welcome. Further info on website.	Launching from Pulborough slipway planned 3.00-3.30pm. Adj to The Corn Store, London Road, Pulborough, RH20 2BJ (TQ045184). Map of slipway here Canoes can launch at Stopham Bridge, RH20 1DS (TQ030183) around 3.30pm. See map here .	Please register for event on website. Further information, please email. Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyarun.org.uk
Tue 16 May 2017 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Joint meeting with IWA. £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for room hire.	Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718).	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sat 20 May 2017 2.00pm	Basingstoke CS	Annual General Meeting. Following the formal business, there will be reports from the Chairmen of the Canal Society and Boat Company, presentation of the Robin Higgs Award and a talk by John Dodwell, Trustee of the Canal & River Trust.	Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman's Road, Deepcut, Surrey GU16 6TB (SU909577).	Terry Inskip: 07768 410920 Email: Secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk Web: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/
Sun 21 May 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Bathampton to Claverton. Along Kennet & Avon towpath.	The George, Bathampton, BA2 6TR (ST776664).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat-Mon 27-29 May 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 27 May 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Thu 1 Jun 2017	Southampton CS	In view of this afternoon's cruise on the Basingstoke Canal, there will be NO evening meeting this month.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 1 Jun 2017 2.00pm for 2.30pm	Southampton CS	Celebrating Fifty Years. Cruise on the 'John Pinkerton' on the Basingstoke Canal. See article on page 1	Colt Hill Wharf, London Road, Odiham, Hampshire, RG29 1AL (SU747519).	Aelred Derbyshire: 01794 651350 Email: aelred41@sky.com

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March Meeting

“Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War” with Stephen Fisher

In 1991, the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology was established with funding from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Councils. From 2014 the Heritage Lottery Fund is part-supporting the Trust's work for four years.

Stephen Fisher, the Research Officer reminded us of the changes in recording archaeology through digital photography and up to date software capabilities. Stephen's talk and discussions also gave us an insight into our ships and the boats built and used in WW1 including the German Navy's Fleet.

We saw early views of St Nazaire and Bruges with the U boat pens, HM Furious was the first aircraft carrier. In 1914 came the North Sea War, with zone blockades to hold the German fleets in and this led up to up to the Battle of Jutland.

1916 saw Dreadnoughts and U boats attempting to starve our British ships. Sea mines were dropped. December 1917 brought nets and mines laid to stop the U boats taking the easy route up the English Channel. We also saw a picture of the South Foreland Lighthouse.

The Hospital Ship Asturias, after discharging her patients at Avonmouth, and clearly showing a Red Cross, was torpedoed by German submarine VC66. She eventually ran aground in Salcombe. Stephen also showed us many archive photographs, maps and drawings.

There are 610 known wrecks off the Isle of Wight all waiting to be

recorded. On the River Hamble, a seaplane lighter and a few others vessels lay by the M27 motorway bridge.

These years of war at sea caused a great loss of ships and people. There are memorials at Tower Hill listing 12,000 merchant seamen lost and at Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton with 57,200 known UK losses.

This was an excellent talk and it was much appreciated that Stephen was willing to spend time at the end listening and discussing questions members asked.

The Maritime Archaeology Trust is accredited to the governing bodies of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

The Maritime Archaeology Trust's booklets were handed out. Inside the front cover showed the remains of German destroyer V82, recently identified by the Trust in Portsmouth Harbour.

An enthusiastic band of volunteers help with meeting people at events, schools and talks. Venues all along the south coast range from country parks, sailing clubs, schools, scouts huts and museums. These events make use of their HLF funded Discovery Bus or event tent. Visit www.forgottenwrecks.org for more information

Angela Rose

Waterways Events *(continued from page 2)*

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Fri-Sun 2-4 Jun 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	See it for Real Productions	Beale Park Boat & Outdoor Show 2017. Open until 6.00pm Fri and Sat. See website for admission charges.	Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9NW (SU618778).	Phone: 01296 631 273 Email: info@bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk Web: www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/
Sat 4 Jun 2017	Wey & Arun CT	“The Poddle” - WACT's annual sponsored walk. Details to follow.	To be announced.	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: support@weyandarun.co.uk Web: www.weyandarun.co.uk
Sat 10 Jun 2017 11.00am-5.00pm	Reading BC and Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Reading Water Fest. Festival of boats, entertainment and stalls. Great family day out. Admission is free.	River Kennet, Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, RG1 3AH. (SU719734)	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: swift.john21@gmail.com Mobile: 07533 886917.
Sun 11 Jun 2017 10.00am-3.00pm	Chichester Rotary	Dragon Boat Challenge 2017 The Rotary Club of Chichester Priory has joined again with Cancer-Wise for the fifth dragon boat challenge on Chichester's canal to raise money for charity.	Canal Basin, Canal Wharf, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041).	Email: chichester-dragons@btinternet.com Web: http://www.chichesterdragonboats.org.uk/
Tue 13 Jun 2017 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Annual General Meeting - 2017	Radstock Museum, Waterloo Rd, Radstock, BA3 3EP (ST689549). For location see map here	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882 Email: chairman@coalcanal.org.uk
Sun 18 Jun 2017 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk - Brassknocker to Claverton. Alongside part of the Coal Canal and the Kennet & Avon.	Brassknocker Canal Centre, Brassknocker Basin, Bath BA2 7JD (ST781621).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: history@coalcanal.org.uk
Sat-Sun 24-25 Jun 2017 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Crofton Br)	Crofton Engines Steaming weekend. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16 Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Sat 24 Jun 2017 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. Bring your own refreshments. Outdoor event with indoor alternative for inclement weather. Tickets £10.00 from The Council Office, Ockwells, 113 High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6AE.	Cricklade Bloomers, Brook House, High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6DD (SU101938).	Cricklade Town Council: 01793 751394 Web: www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Sat 24 Jun 2017 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Adults: £6.00, Children under 16 free, no concessions.	Claverton Pumping Station, Ferry Lane, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BH (ST790643).	Tel: 01225 483001 Email: enquiries@claverton.org Web: www.claverton.org
Sun 25 Jun 2017 5.30pm	Mikron Theatre	In at the Deep End. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets. Outdoor show.	Forbury Gardens, Reading, RG1 3EJ (SU718736).	Tel: 01189 372771 Web: mikron.org.uk
Tue 27 Jun 2017 7.00pm	Mikron Theatre	Best Foot Forward. performed at Fordingbridge Group of WIs. Tickets: £10. Indoor venue. Ice cream available in interval.	The Town Hall, 63 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1AS (SU147141). Please use town car park (The Bartons SP6 1HZ) free after 6pm.	Tel: 014255 650493 / 01425 652172 Web: mikron.org.uk

Waterway Boat Trips

Listed below are abbreviated details of trip boats operating this year on inland waterways within about 50 miles of Southampton. Many operators offer more trips/options than there is room for in this list, especially on the Thames - visit the listed websites for further details. Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this list, it is strongly recommended that checks be made with the operator before travelling any distance.

Waterway & Operator	Trips and Tickets	Bookings and Further information
Basingstoke Canal - Basingstoke CS	Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham, - King Johns Castle. 2½ hr trips: Various days at 2.30pm. Also other special trips - see website. Adults £10, Children under 16 £5 (under 1yr free), Senior Citizens £7, Family Ticket (2 Adults + 2 Children) £25. Wheelchair restrictions.	Online: johnpinkerton.co.uk/booking ☎ 01256 765889 (10am - 8pm) ✉ jbbookings@basingstoke-canal.org.uk ① www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/jp/public-trips/ Colt Hill Wharf: RG29 1AL (SU747517)
Chichester Canal - Chichester Ship CT	Chichester Canal Basin to Donnington. 1¼ hr trips: 7 days a week at 10:15am, 12:00 noon, 1:45pm, 3:30pm. Adult: £8.00, Child (12 & under): £5.00. No dogs except guide/assistance dogs. Access for 2 wheelchairs.	Canal Centre, Canal Basin, Chichester, PO19 8DT (SU858041) 9.30am to 4.45pm weekdays: in person or by ☎ 01243 771363. ① chichestercanal.org.uk/boat-trips/scheduled-trips/
Kennet & Avon Canal - Kennet & Avon CT	Newbury Wharf, - Northcroft. 1¼ hr trips: Sat & Sun Apr-Oct, Thu May-Sep. Extra trips on "High Days and Holidays". Adults £6, Children (2-15) £4, Children under 2 free, Seniors £5, Family (2+2) £18. No wheelchairs.	Newbury Visitor Information Centre: ☎ 01635 30267. Devizes Office in office hours (weekdays): ☎ 01380 721279. Mobile (weekends): ☎ 07716 460562 ① jubilee.katrust.org.uk/ Newbury Wharf: RG14 5AS (SU472671)
Kennet & Avon Canal - Kennet & Avon CT	From Hungerford Wharf. 2½ hr trips to Wire Lock: Sat, Sun & Bank Hols in Apr-Sep. Wed in May-Sep - Adults £8.00, Seniors £7.00, Children (3 to 15) £5.00, Family ticket £24.00. 1½ hr trips to Dun Mill Lock: Sat & Sun in Aug; Wed in Jul-Aug. Sat; Sat & Wed in Oct - Adults £7.00, Seniors £6.00, Children (3 to 15) £4.00. Electric wheelchair lift.	Devizes Office in office hours (weekdays): ☎ 01380 721279. In person: Fare Wise Travel, 19 High Street, Hungerford. ✉ rose@katrust.org.uk ① rose.katrust.org.uk Hungerford Wharf: RG17 0EQ (SU338687)
Kennet & Avon Canal - Kennet & Avon CT	Devizes Wharf - east of Devizes Marina. 1¼ hr trips: Sat, Sun, Wed 2.30pm Apr-Oct. Thu 2.30pm summer school holidays. Adult £6.00, Seniors £5.00, Children (5-15) £4.00, Family (2 adults and 2 children) £16.00, children under 5 years old free. Other public trips available. No wheelchairs. Dogs at discretion of other passengers and skipper.	☎ 07975 854503. Devizes Office in office hours (weekdays): ☎ 01380 721279. In person: K&ACT shop at Devizes Wharf or Devizes Books, Handel House, Sidmouth Street, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 1LD. ① kv.katrust.org.uk Devizes Wharf: SN10 1EB (SU004617)
Kennet & Avon Canal - Kennet & Avon CT	From above Bradford Lock either west to Avoncliff (2 hrs) or east to Hilperton (2¼ hr). 2 hr trips: Sat, Wed & Bank Holidays from Easter Sat 2.00pm Apr-Oct. 2¼ hr trips: Sun from Easter Sun 2.00pm Apr-Oct. Adult £7.00, Child £4.00. Children under 5 free. Other public trips available. Dogs at discretion of other passengers and skipper.	Devizes Office in office hours (weekdays): ☎ 01380 721279. In person on the day only: Wharf Tea Rooms, Bradford on Avon. ① bmac.katrust.org.uk Above Bradford Lock: BA15 1LE (ST825601)
River Arun - The River Arun Ferry	From Town Quay, Arundel, West Sussex , BN18 9DF (TQ019070). Tue-Sun: from 10:30 - 17:30. 1hr trip - Adults: £9.00, Seniors and Children: £7.00. Longer trips possible. Limited to 12 passengers.	Bookings can be made after 0900 on sailing days. ☎ 07473 255889 ✉ riverarunferry@gmail.com ① www.facebook.com/riverarunferry?ref=ts&fref=ts
River Thames - Hobbs of Henley	Various cruises up and downstream of Henley. Daily Easter to 30 September - trips from 1 to 3 hrs. 1 hr - Adults: £9.75, Seniors: £7.75, Children (4 to 15): £6.25, Children under 3: Free.	Hobbs of Henley, The Boat House, Station Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AZ (SU763823). ☎ 01491 572035 ✉ boats@hobbssofhenley.co.uk ① www.hobbssofhenley.com
River Thames - French Brothers	Various cruises between Maidenhead, Windsor, Runnymede and Hampton Court ranging from 40 mins to all day. 40 min trip - Adult: £8.50, Senior: £7.80, Children: £5.65. Book online for discounts.	French Brothers Ltd, The Clewer Boathouse, Clewer Court Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 5JH. ☎ 01753 851900 ✉ sales@boat-trips.co.uk ① www.frenchbrothers.co.uk Departs Windsor: SL4 1QX
River Thames - Oxford River Cruises	Depart from Folly Bridge, Oxford , OX1 4JU. Various trips in small launches: 30min to 2½hrs Apr-Oct. 30 min trip: Adult £8.00, Child: £5.00.	Oxford River Cruises, The Folly, 1 Folly Bridge, Oxford, OX1 4JU. ☎ 08452 269396 ✉ info@oxfordrivercruises.com ① www.oxfordrivercruises.com
River Thames - Salters Steamers	Various trips from Oxford, Abingdon, Reading, Henley, Marlow and Windsor - mostly 40-45 mins. In Oxford, Apr-Oct on the hour from 11:00 - 17:00 daily - Adult £8.00, Child £4.00, Children under 3 go free. Trips elsewhere less frequent. Also trips from Oxford - Abingdon twice daily - Adults: £20.80, Seniors: £19.80, Children: £11.70 return.	Bookings & Enquiries: Salters Steamers Ltd, Folly Bridge, Oxford, OX1 4LA. ☎ 01865 243421 Fax: 01865 248185 ✉ info@salterssteamers.co.uk ① www.salterssteamers.co.uk
River Thames - Thames River-cruise	Departure Point: Caversham Pier and Caversham Promenade, Caversham, Reading , RG1 8BD. 30 min to 2 hr cruises 2 April to October. Adults from £6.00. Further details on website.	Office: Thames Rivercruise, Pipers Island, Bridge Street, Caversham, Reading, Berks, RG4 8AH ☎ 0118 948 1088 ① www.thamesrivercruise.co.uk
River Wey - Godalming Packet-boat Company	Horse-drawn narrow boat. Departs: Godalming Wharf , Off Woosack Way, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1LQ. 2 hour trips most days from Easter to the end of September, but please ring 01483 414938 to confirm times of trips (usually 2.00 pm).	Correspondence: Godalming Packetboat Company, 57 Furze Lane, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3NP ☎ 01483 414938 ① http://www.horseboat.org.uk ✉ j.robertsgpbc@gmail.com
River Wey - National Trust	40 minute cruises from Dapdune Wharf, Guildford in electric launches taking 12 passengers. First trip 11.15am then on the hour thereafter. Thu - Mon during open season and all week in August. Tickets not available for advanced booking.	Navigations Office and Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4RR. ✉ riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk ☎ 01483 561389 ① www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-wey-and-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf
Wey & Arun Canal - Wey & Arun CT	Normal departure point: Canal Centre behind the Onslow Arms in Loxwood, West Sussex , RH14 0RD. Various trips 35 mins to 3½ hours. Sat, Sun and Bank Holiday Mon. 1 April to 29 October	☎ 01403 752403 (Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1.30pm) ✉ office@weyandarun.co.uk ① www.weyandarun.co.uk/tripboats/index.php
Wilts & Berks Canal - Wilts & Berks CT	Landing stage at Waitrose, Mill Lane, Wichelstowe, Swindon SN1 7BX (SU134829). 12 passenger narrow boat. Sat & Sun at 10.30am, 11.45am, 1.30pm and 2.45pm. Extra days in school summer holidays. Adults: £5.00, Children (2 - 15): £2.00.	Boat team: on ☎ 07401 220076 or ✉ boats@wbct.org.uk ① www.wbct.org.uk/experience/take-a-boat-trip

IWA warns Scottish Canals over declining boat numbers

THE Inland Waterways Association has written to Scottish Canals expressing deep disappointment at the announcement from Capercaillie Cruisers, which operates hire boats from Falkirk on the Scottish lowland canals, that it will cease trading after the 2017 season.

According to the statement from Capercaillie, this is due in part to the proposed scale of increase in Scottish Canals' charges and restrictions on boat numbers at the Falkirk Wheel. As Capercaillie Cruisers is also the operating agent for the ABC and Black Prince fleets based at Falkirk, this will mean the end of the entire hire boat operation on the Forth & Clyde and Union canals.

In IWA's view this is very bad news for the future of these canals, as it will significantly reduce the number of boat movements and mean that very few people will now be able to experience boating on these restored waterways. IWA believes that boats are an essential part of the waterways and that the Scottish canals need more boating activity, not less.

It appears that there is a large gap between what Scottish Canals wishes to charge and what Capercaillie Cruisers and potentially other operators believe they can pay, and IWA has asked Scottish Canals to reconsider its position.

Separately, IWA is concerned to hear that Scottish Canals is still progressing the concept of the Rotate project. As stated in IWA's response to Scottish Canals' Pricing Consultation in 2016, IWA disagrees with the proposal for a static pontoon to be fitted to one of the caissons of the Falkirk Wheel, leaving just one caisson for use by the trip boat and any other boats wishing to travel between the two canals.

While accepting that Scottish Canals wishes to optimise income from tourists, IWA believes that increasing the number of boats on the canals, for example through additional trip boat operations, sustainable hire boat businesses and more opportunities for people to get afloat affordably, is the most effective way to achieve its tourism revenue objectives.

IWA has asked Scottish Canals to ensure that the Rotate project will not affect the use of the wheel by either hire boats or private boats, as that would be contrary to the original purpose of the Falkirk Wheel as a millennium project to link the two restored canals.

IWA has called on Scottish Canals to urgently reconsider its position and adopt a long term strategy which aims to increase all forms of boating on its waterways. Restricting the use of the Falkirk Wheel and the closure of hire boat companies is not the way to achieve this.

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk> 24 March 2017

Skippers and crew sought for Wey & Arun trips

THE Wey & Arun Canal Trust is seeking more skippers and crew members for its boat trips which operate from Loxwood in West Sussex.

All the proceeds raised from the trips go towards the restoration of the canal.

James Field, chairman of Wey & Arun Enterprises (WACT's trading arm) said: "The trips are becoming increasingly popular; last year we raised £60,000 for the charity. We would like to do even better but we need more volunteer skippers and crew.

Everyone operating the boats is a volunteer; all are given the training they need to fulfil their roles and all our skippers have a Maritime and Coastguard Agency skipper's licence."

He added: "Our volunteers range in age from their 40s to their 80s and come from all walks of life."

If anyone is interested for more information please contact 01403 752403 or email office@weyandarun.co.uk and one of the boat group will be in touch.

Alison Reynolds became a member of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust about five years ago. Having recently retired from working for a small fire alarm company, she was looking for some local voluntary work.

During the late 60s and 70s she enjoyed canal holidays with her family so the Wey & Arun Canal seemed an ideal place to volunteer. She said: "Our training consisted of a day on the boats learning how to operate the locks, passenger safety, our responsibilities as boat crew, and everything we needed to start crewing.

"After the initial day of training we were allocated an experienced boat crew to work with who carefully watched how we operated commenting to help us get it right and answering any questions we had. It was great fun and I felt confident when it came to my first trip.

Alison added: "John has since gone on to be an MCA licensed skipper and we often crew together,



Zachariah Keppel - Photo W&ACT

I have also trained as cabin crew. I would recommend anyone who is thinking of volunteering to consider joining us, as boat crew, cabin crew or training to be a skipper. It's a great team to be part of and is very rewarding."

Steve Harmes has been a skipper on the Wey & Arun trip boats for eight years.

He said: "I've always been interested in industrial history and I carry out work on canal restoration in other parts of the country with the Waterway Recovery Group.

"When I found out about the canal and after going on one of the trips back in 2008, I enquired about ways to volunteer to help with the restoration."

He started helping with the Sunday and Thursday group restoring locks and, at the time, starting the Loxwood road bridge and lock project, but found he was unable to give as much time as he would like and turned to the trip boats as an alternative.

Having been on several canal boat holidays, he had some experience of boat driving but said the training given by the excellent team on the Wey & Arun means that even someone with no boating experience can soon pick it up.

Steve continued: "The process for obtaining the MCA (Marine and Coastguard Agency) licence, required to become a skipper, is very well supported by the Wey & Arun training programme and having an interview with a qualified MCA captain is not as daunting as it sounds; they are mainly concerned with the safe operation of the boats which is well covered by the operations manual and the training given.

"I now commit to one day a month to trip boat skippering and another to boat cleaning, an important task which, somehow, I am now in charge of! Driving the boat means I am out the back and the crew have more chance to talk to the passengers, I sometimes volunteer as crew so I can chat to people as well."

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk> 27 March 2017

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 are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Events) at Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184. Contact the Secretary for further information.

This Newsletter is normally published during the first week of each month in time for the Society's meeting.

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Thames Water fined record £20m for river pollution

THAMES Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water) has been ordered to pay an unprecedented £20,361,140.06 in fines and costs for a series of significant pollution incidents on the River Thames.

These offences, between 2012 and 2014, led to the death of wildlife and distress to the public.

The prosecution saw six separate cases brought together in one hearing at Aylesbury Crown Court. It is the biggest freshwater pollution case in the Environment Agency's 20-year history.

The court heard how TWUL's repeated illegal discharges of sewage into the River Thames, and its tributaries, resulted in major environmental damage including visible sewage along 14km of the river, and the death of birds, fish and invertebrates.

The multiple incidents from the company's wastewater sites in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire caused significant distress and disruption to the public. Riverside residents, farmers, local businesses, anglers, and recreational river users were all affected. Sailing regattas and other events on the River Thames were also disrupted.

The Court heard how for weeks, untreated sewage, amounting to millions of litres per day, was diverted to the rivers and away from

the treatment process, although the incoming sewage flow was well within the designed capacity of the treatment works. In many instances less than half of the incoming sewage was sent for treatment.

His Honour Judge Sheridan said it was "a very dark period in the history of Thames Water" who demonstrated "scant regard for the law, with dreadful results for people who live in the area."

He congratulated the Environment Agency for their "painstaking and thorough investigation", and added that he hopes the courts never see the like of such a case again.

When commenting on the level of the fines, His Honour Judge Sheridan, noted this was a record breaking fine for record breaking offending. He asks that the fines must be met by Thames Water, and not be passed onto customers; it was the company, not the customers, who broke the law.

Anne Brosnan, Chief Prosecutor for the Environment Agency said: "Members of the public are our eyes and ears so if you see any signs of pollution in a watercourse near you please report it to the Environment Agency Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60."

<http://www.towpathtalk.co.uk> 23 March 2017

Volunteers needed to help look after historic pumping station

We are on the lookout for volunteers to tell the story of Claverton Pumping Station, one of the oldest and most iconic pumping stations along the nation's waterways and the only working water wheel powered beam engine in the country.

Having helped keep the Kennet & Avon Canal supplied with water during the Industrial Revolution, the Station fell into decline before recently being restored.

Along with a team of volunteers from The Claverton Group, we are looking to attract further people to help maintain the Station as well as hosting tours to tell its unique story.

Powered by the force of water from the River Avon, the 24 ft. wide wooden water wheel, along with the beam engine, pumps water 48ft uphill (the height of three double decker buses) to the Kennet & Avon Canal. During the height of the industrial revolution the pumps played an important role in keeping the canal full of water and boats moving cargo along the canal.

Steve Manzi, from the Trust said: "The volunteers at Claverton have done a remarkable job restoring the pumping station, with some of them making a lifelong commitment to seeing the water wheel and

pump, up and running again.

"We are now need some additional 'hands to the pump' as it were, to help us tell the story of the pumping station to the public. You don't need to have any specialist skills or knowledge to join the volunteering team for this role, just a love for canals and a curious mind that wants to know how things work."

Peter Dunn, from The Claverton Group, said: "I've spent 25 years helping to maintain the inner workings of the pumping station and for me it really has been a labour of love. I'm really proud of what we have achieved and that we have the water wheel working again. We would love to be able to show the station to as many people as possible but we do need some extra help in order to do this. If anyone is interested in lending a hand, we would really love to hear from them."

If you would like to volunteer at Claverton Pumping Station, please contact Peter Dunn on 07719 911 421 or by email at

enquires@claverton.org Claverton website: www.claverton.org

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk> 13 March 2017