



# Newsletter

Issue 395

August 2005

## Chairman's Column

### Eva Drinkwater

It is with great regret that I have to advise the Society that Frank Drinkwater, husband of our long time member, Eva, passed away earlier this month. Our sympathies go to Eva and her family, to whom an appropriate card has been sent.

### 2005 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to all our members attending the Society's 38th Annual General Meeting. The agenda and all supporting documentation, including reports from the Officers and the 2004/05 accounts, were published in the last Newsletter.

Because of our rising costs, mainly the postage of the Newsletter, members will be asked to decide whether to continue with a monthly publication but increase membership subscriptions, or leave subscriptions at the current level (for this year only) but change to a bi-monthly Newsletter.

### September Newsletter

Whatever the AGM's decision regarding subscriptions/frequency of the Newsletter, I have to advise that there will not be a September issue of the Newsletter because of holidays of key individuals concerned in its input and publication.

### Storage of Society Equipment

Because of the imminent move of two Society members from the Southampton area, there is an urgent need to find alternative storage for the Society's projection screen, a venerable slide projector (which is brought to meetings as a backup if the speaker's one fails), episcopes (for projecting prints) and one or two other bits and pieces. A number of other Society members already store equipment etc and it is not possible for them to extend those arrangements. **If we cannot find additional storage the Society could be in real trouble and**

### Editor's Thanks

It was a little surprising to discover the other day that I have been editor of this Newsletter for ten years and just over one hundred issues. My first issue as editor was number 291 and was published at the September 1995 meeting.

Since then, I hope that I have managed to keep the membership informed, entertained and amused with news and articles which have not just been of local

future presentations could be in jeopardy. If you can help, please speak to me, Eric, Laura or Peter as soon as possible. Many thanks.

### WaterWorld

In the June Newsletter I mentioned that our Warwickshire-based members, Ken and Margaret Froud, had recorded the latest series of TV's 'WaterWorld' and had lent this to the Society. Member Ray Brooks has kindly made two copies (in 'long play' mode) which are now available for loan from Alan Howarth on the Society's library stand.

### Donated Canal Print

Further to the item in my column in the April Newsletter concerning the canal print by Garth Allan donated to the Society by members Paul and Viv Taylor, it has been decided to auction this at our Christmas meeting. An image of the print will appear in the next Newsletter.

### British Waterways

As has become customary, we have received an invitation to BW's Annual Meeting, to be held this year on 8 September. We have also received a copy of BW's strategic document 'Our Plan for the Future 2005-2009' which sets out very clear targets for that organisation, and its 2004/05 Annual Report & Accounts. Copies of those two documents will be placed in the Society's library for members' perusal.

### Refreshments Rota

It seems to be a regular appeal in our monthly Newsletter but we do need members to come forward to assist with refreshments at our meetings. We do have a small pool of members who regularly volunteer for this task. Please do not leave this to the same 'crew' but see Gill with the date(s) you will be prepared to assist.

*Paul Herbert*

interest but have also kept members aware of national or even overseas happenings.

I have 'borrowed' from many sources including IWA and waterways press material, but contributions from our own members have been an important input. To all who have sent me stories, press cuttings, snippets of information, etc may I say thank you for your help over the years. (But, please, keep up the good work!)

*Peter Oates*

## July Meeting

### 'The Itchen Navigation Project' - Leah Mathias

We are grateful to Leah Mathias, the Itchen Navigation Project Officer, for making the time available to come and talk to us about the Project at our July meeting.

Members will recall that a synopsis of this project was published in our April 2005 Newsletter. It is not the intention, therefore, to repeat that information again but to concentrate on Leah's presentation.

She started her talk with details of the history and present status of the Itchen Navigation and gave credit to Southampton Canal Society for the valuable information provided about the Navigation on its excellent website (*Thanks are very much due to our webmaster and waterways expert, Peter Oates*). Leah provided details of the Project and its aims, objectives and aspirations which were to give the navigation a 'new lease of life'. The principal aims of this project are to enhance and improve the internationally renowned chalk river system to celebrate its wildlife, history and value to local people. In addition, and reflecting the importance of the heritage the project seeks to conserve, it is hoped to improve existing access, enjoyment and understanding of the Navigation. The wildlife designations that emphasise the importance of the River Itchen system in a UK and European context and the industrial heritage are the main drivers for the project. There is little in the way of intellectual access e.g.: interpretation and literature on the Navigation. The present resource for physical access is a Public Footpath. The Project is not creating new rights nor is it curtailing existing rights. The Project seeks to increase the promotional literature, displays and awareness of the Navigation and will seek to improve the public footpath where appropriate.

The Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project had received a £48,000 project planning grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This funding boost secured by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and, with additional support from the Environment Agency, has funded the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan to help restore the Itchen Navigation for people and wildlife. The purpose of that Plan is to support an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the actual implementation of the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project (as against its planning).

Leah was appointed in 2004 to run the planning phase of the project, her post sitting with the Wildlife Trust on behalf of the partnership which includes the Environment Agency, Winchester City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Hampshire County Council and English Nature.

Leah described the various (and complex) issues that

the Project will be dealing with. She stressed that the legal issues concerning the Itchen Navigation were a 'legal minefield' and she did not intend to get embroiled in those issues at the meeting. There are a number of conflicts of interest arising from the varied existing uses of the navigation and land owner issues etc. Leah stressed that the main aim of the Project was to restore the navigation for people and wildlife. The conservation management plan will:

- Provide an overview of the importance of the study area;
- Provide an assessment of significance of the study area;
- Identify management issues and vulnerability;
- Develop policies and objectives for managing the site;
- Develop a work and maintenance schedule;
- Develop a monitoring and review strategy.

Leah stressed that the Project did not include the restoration of the Itchen for through navigation purposes. There was little public demand for such full restoration, there would be significant engineering difficulties, extremely high costs, and the navigation is an important place for wildlife and falls in the area designated as a Special Area of Conservation and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It also has several Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation along its length. In addition, there were currently no plans to re-water any of the dry sections of the navigation.

Leah went on to describe the many values and attractions of the navigation, also highlighting some of the challenges that lay ahead of the Project.

Referring to the methodology of the Project, Leah described the appointment of various specialist consultants who had examined such aspects as engineering, nature conservation, heritage conservation, public access, stakeholder interests (including riparian owners), legal issues etc. There had been a lengthy public consultation exercise and she referred to the valuable input of both the Southampton Canal Society and the Inland Waterways Association.

Following the refreshment break there was a most interesting and rewarding question and answer session which took us up to the end of the meeting. Leah pointed out that there would be opportunities in due course for individuals or groups to assist in the implementation of various Project works and if anyone is interested in helping they should contact her at the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

In closing, Leah explained that a summary of the

(Continued on page 4)

## 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
<b>Thu 28 Jul 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>AGM and Waterway Videos. Please note that this is the "August" meeting. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
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: <a href="mailto:pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk">pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Sat 27 - Sun 28 Aug 2005	Basingstoke Canal Boat Club	Fox and Hounds Boat Rally at Fleet.	Tel: 01252 663674
<b>Thu 1 Sept 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>'The Work of the Upper Severn Trust' with Jeremy Coles. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Thu 8 Sept 2005 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Basingstoke Canal Authority	Guided bat walk. Canal Ranger Paul Hope will give a talk about bats at the outset then lead the group on a guided walk. There will be a limited number of bat detectors for you to use. Booking essential - £3 per person.	Tel: 01252 370073
Sat 10 Sept 2005 10.00am	Chichester Ship CT	4 mile conducted walk along part of the Portsmouth & Arundel Navigation from Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham to the River Arun at Ford. Bring packed lunch. Collection taken. Frequent trains for return.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 11 Sept 2005 10.00am	Chichester Ship CT	Conducted walk along Chichester Canal from Salterns Lock to Chichester.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 11 Sept 2005 10.00am - 4.00pm	Chichester Ship CT	Poyntz Bridge (the only remaining swing bridge on the Chichester Canal) will be swung.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
Sun 11 Sept 2005 11.00am	Chichester Ship CT	Raft races at the canal basin, Chichester.	Linda Wilkinson: 01243 576701
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: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
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: <a href="mailto:pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk">pete@greensleeves.freeserve.co.uk</a>
<b>Thu 13 Oct 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>'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.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
<b>Thu 3 Nov 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>'South Coast Circular Cruise' by James Griffin. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
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: <a href="mailto:ronmyra.glover@virgin.net">ronmyra.glover@virgin.net</a>
<b>Thu 1 Dec 2005 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Inter-Society Waterways Quiz and American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton.</b>	<b>Eric Lewis: 023 8086 0384</b>
Every Sun, Wed & Bank Hol 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: <a href="mailto:enquiries@claverton.org">enquiries@claverton.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.claverton.org/">www.claverton.org/</a>
Every day 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: <a href="mailto:eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org">eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/">www.croftonbeamengines.org/</a>
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: <a href="mailto:eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org">eq05ntz9@CroftonBeamEngines.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/">www.croftonbeamengines.org/</a>
1 May - 31 Jul 2005	Museum of Bath at Work	Somersetshire Coal Canal Exhibition within the Museum, Julian Road, Bath. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the official opening of the Combe Hay flight of locks. Open 10.00am to 4.00pm 7 days a week - adult: £4.00, concessions: £3.00, family (2 adults, 2 children): £10.00.	Museum: 01225 318348. Web: <a href="http://www.bath-at-work.org.uk">www.bath-at-work.org.uk</a>

## 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:

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### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

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Peter Oates,  
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### Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

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### Society Website:

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

## Society website

The Canal Society's website, which has now been in existence for about six years, continues to be popular, having been visited by people from various countries around the world, including the following:

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia.

Why not find out what is the attraction?

## July Meeting

*(Continued from page 2)*

Conservation Management Plan was about to be published on the Project's website. A copy of that plan has now been run off and deposited in the Society's library. That plan provides far more detail about the Project than I have been able to include in this write-up. The Project's Access and Audience Development Plan can also be found on the Project website, but that is a very large document and it is not proposed at this time to print off a copy for the library. Obviously, if it is found that a large demand exists for access to a hard copy of that document, a copy could then be made available.

Many thanks to Leah for providing so much information and background on this exciting project and we will all look forward to witnessing progress over the next few years, as funding becomes available.

To view the Project website, and to access the Conservation Management Plan and Access and Audience Development Plan online, go to: [www.hwt.org.uk/itchen.htm](http://www.hwt.org.uk/itchen.htm)

*Paul Herbert*

## Member's Recovery

*After mention in the Chairman's Column last month of Colin Huggins' heart surgery, the Editor recently received the following email:*

Thanks for the (abbreviated) medical report in this month's SCS newsletter (is that why they call it a "mench"?).

Just to let you know that I cheated the forecast doom and gloom and recovered very quickly - some would say far too quickly! - and hounded the yard to finish the repairs and get us both afloat again. The result was being able to join the Solent & Arun IWA group on their trip up the Adur on 9 July. Reached Upper Beeding as planned after dredging the shallows on the way!

That bunch intend to attack the Upper Hamble in September which will be another challenge, and the next time I have Chilworth in the diary is for James Griffin's cruise account in November. I've already spoken to him about the trip.

Sincerely

COLIN HUGGINS

## Donation

As a result of the talk given by Ron and Myra Glover earlier in the year, the Society made a donation of £50 to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. Myra forwarded the cheque to the Trust and has since told us, "I thought that you may be interested to know that the donation will be paying for two stop planks at Dauntsey lock! We will have to go & inspect our stop planks some time!"