



Chairman's Column

2009 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to all members attending the Society's 42nd Annual General Meeting. The agenda and all supporting documentation are included in this Newsletter.

September Meeting

On 3 September we will be welcoming Peter Jordan who will be talking to us about the 'History of the Kennet & Avon Canal'.

Day-Star Theatre Visit – Friday 25 September

Tickets are now available, at £8 each, for Day-Star Theatre's production of "An Unpleasant Business" which will be staged at Chilworth Parish Hall on Friday 25 September (please see the advertisement below for fuller details).

Get your tickets from our Secretary, Angela Rose - contact details in this Newsletter.

Day-Star Theatre – 'After Show Supper'

There will be the usual **American Supper** following Day-Star Theatre's performance. That supper will be

along the same lines as previously. Wine and soft drinks will be provided but each member or guest should bring along food for all to share.

October Meeting – Yes or No?

The answer is NO! Day-Star's visit on 25 September takes the place of the Society's normal monthly meeting which would have been held on Thursday 1 October. So please don't come on that date – because we won't be here!

Donations to other Waterways Organisations

It has been the Society's policy for many years that, when funds permit, donations are made to other waterways organisations, particularly those engaged in restoration work. At present the Society has accrued a healthy balance and, at its last meeting, the Committee discussed this issue and is recommending to members at the AGM that donations of £100 each be made to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and the Wey & Arun Canal Trust. Those recommendations will be contained in the Treasurer & Membership Secretary's report.

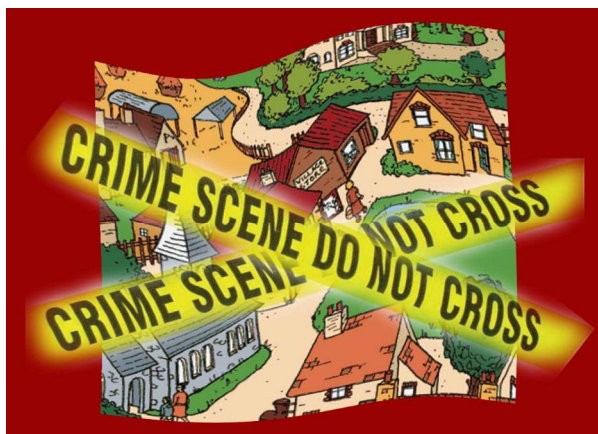
Paul Herbert

Day-Star Theatre

An Unpleasant Business

The village of Oakley Magna no longer has a shop, a post office, a school, a pub or a bus service. It is, on the whole, apart from the annoying teenagers in the defunct bus shelter, a quiet village.

So when Septuagenarian Daisy Thomas is found hanging upside down in a disused abattoir it is easy to imagine how the locals feel. Except that no one much liked the old lady. In fact most villagers openly disliked her. She'd been a bit of a nuisance over the years with her objections to fox hunting and G.M. crops and barn conversions and vehicles speeding through the village. And it's not as if she was a real local. She'd only been in the village forty years and before that no one knows anything about her.



Detective Inspector Gibson and Detective Constable Saunders arrive from nearby Market Kingsley to unravel the truth behind this unpleasant business. They lead themselves up and down several garden paths and even back to the most wanted man in England in 1966. And they bring with them their own personal baggage.

Another weird and wonderful, witty and whacky take on rural life with the distinct possibility of an unexpected twist or two.

Day-Star will be appearing on **Friday** 25th September at 7.45pm. Tickets price £8.00 for the show and the following American Supper are now available from the Secretary, Angela Rose (contact details on page 2 of this Newsletter).

This Newsletter

This month, the Newsletter contains various documents to do with this year's AGM. These rather dominate the Newsletter and have crowded out some features from this issue. In particular, the Waterways Diary has been a victim, but it will be possible to see an up-to-date list on our website www.sotoncs.org.uk Hopefully, normal service can be resumed next month. As Paul exhorts in his report to the AGM, maybe it will contain articles from members who have not contributed in recent times.

June Meeting Silent Auction and General Knowledge Quiz

Our June meeting this year took the form of a Silent Auction, with the aim of raising money for Naomi House, the local childrens' hospice which lost such a lot of money in the collapse of the Icelandic banks.

48 items, in total, were up for auction, most donated by members, but some wheedled out of local firms by the begging talents of Maureen Greenham and Angela Rose. Items included such diverse objects as family tickets to Paultons Park, lavender bags, life jackets, a teaset, a computer desk, books, pictures and a giant gorilla!

When all had been registered, they were placed on tables around the room with their bidding sheets, so that people could view them

and place their bids over the course of the evening. Whilst deciding on which items to bid on, a general knowledge quiz was provided by Maureen to keep us on our toes, and light refreshments of wine and nibbles.

Despite the rather poor attendance, due to many people being off boating in the fine weather, all of the items were sold, except for one poor solitary Calor gas bottle, raising a total of £285.25. To this was added the proceeds from the quiz, teas and the raffle, making £363.29. This was made up to a round sum, so that we were able to donate £400 to Naomi House - and a great time was had by all!

Anne Coleman

July Meeting Brian Evans – 'Tales, slides and cine film'

Well, not quite – we certainly had lots of tales, numerous slides – but no cine film. Why? As Brian explained at the start of the evening, because it wasn't possible to completely darken the hall, it would not be possible to achieve a bright enough cine image. However, the absence of cine certainly didn't diminish our enjoyment of the evening in any way.

We were shown so many slides, of such a wide variety, all accompanied by Brian's narrative, and his tales, of course, that I don't quite know where to start. I won't try and describe the slides in the order they were shown but give the reader more of a 'potpourri'.

Brian and Annegret had accompanied Society members on a number of recent outings and we were shown pictures of our visit to the Wey & Arun Canal and the adjacent Brewhurst Mill, and the double trip, first to the Basingstoke Canal followed by The Watercress Line. Those weren't the only trains shown to us. We also experienced a brief visual visit to Eastleigh Airfield (now Southampton International Airport), which celebrates its centenary this year.

In passing we also visited Stratford, in 1964, with the celebration of the re-opening of the Stratford Canal.

Brian also took us abroad – with an early picture of the Channel

Tunnel entrance at Folkestone and we later went through parts of Eastern Southern Germany and on the French waterways.

Back in Britain we explored parts of the Fens region with visits to the River Great Ouse at Ely, the famous cathedral and stained glass museum, the Denver Sluice area, the windmill at Downham Market and on to the waterfront at Kings Lynn. Back into the Fens and a visit to Prickwillow and its pumping house accommodating the Prickwillow Drainage Engine Museum.

We then shot down to our own area with evocative shots of the mouth of the Beaulieu River, up to Brian's original home area with a view of 'Canalside Luxury' – that is to say, advertising hoardings for new apartments built around Diglis Basin and alongside the Worcester & Birmingham Canal in Worcester City Centre. Finally we were up in Wigan with the (in)famous Wigan Pier.

I am sure there were many other slides that I didn't manage to list but, as I am sure both Brian and readers will appreciate, it is a little difficult for me to both enjoy such a presentation, and take notes at the same time. Many thanks Brian for such an entertaining evening which I am sure we all enjoyed, not only the slides but your tales as well!

Paul Herbert

Items for Sale

Our member from Hayling Island, Colin Huggins, has a couple of items for sale which he thought would be of interest to our members. If you would like to know more or indeed purchase one (or both) of these items, Colin can be contacted on 02392 467828.

Book "Inland Waterways of Great Britain" by Jane Cumberlidge. 2009 edition, new unused, £20

Dinghy: Avon Redstart, new unused including 10-year manufacturer's guarantee £650

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.

President:

Brian Evans.

Chairman:

Paul Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 1TB. Tel: 023 8026 2365.

Email: p_herbert1@sky.com

Secretary:

Angela Rose, Hilo, Hungerford, Bursledon, Hampshire, SO31 8DF. Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 403982 (home)

Email: info@apas-engineering.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Anne Coleman, 14 Redmoor Close, Bitterne, Southampton, SO19 4DH. Tel: 023 8044 2552. Email: wiseowl@tcp.co.uk

Committee:

Maureen Greenham, Peter Oates, Alan Rose, David Townley-Jones

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798.

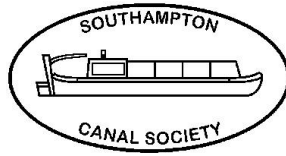
Email: scs@whitenap.plus.com

Society Website:

<http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>

Meetings:

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm. (See Waterways Diary.) Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.



SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY
2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton
Thursday 30 July 2009 at 7.45 pm

AGENDA

1. Announcements.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Minutes of 2008 Annual General Meeting held on 31 July 2008 (herewith) and matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report (herewith).
5. Secretary's Report (herewith).
6. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report (herewith). (Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2009 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009).
7. Review of Annual Subscription Rates.
8. Election of the following Officers:-
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer & Membership Secretary
9. Election of Committee (the Officers plus up to three other Society Members. Additional Members may be co-opted as required).
10. Any other business relevant to an Annual General Meeting, where prior notice of the item has been given.

Note: In accordance with the Society's Constitution, only fully paid up members are eligible to vote at a meeting of the Society. Individual members and affiliated member organisations are entitled to one vote. Joint or family membership entitles that category to a maximum of two votes. Only members aged 18 or over are eligible to vote. All votes have to be cast in person, no proxy votes being permitted.

Secretary's Report - 2008/09

As Secretary my thanks first go to Paul Herbert for leading the Society through the last year.

I also want to say "Thank you" to my fellow committee members Anne, Maureen, David, Peter & Alan for their ideas & support.

All correspondence received has been discussed as necessary at the committee meeting and dealt with accordingly.

Just to recap some of the events and meetings the Society organised from August 2008:

In September, Dave Youldren from the Mid Hants Railway was interesting, particularly as the Society had visited the Watercress line a few months earlier in April. Later in September, we had another trip with Maureen and Brian Greenham organising "The Three Rivers Cruise" around the Solent. This was followed by another performance by Day-Star Theatre in October.

The Skittles Evening in November was again well supported and our thanks to Rogan and Lynne for ably organising it. We will miss them. Then at the Christmas meeting, the Inter-Society Waterways Quiz showed SCS to be the best!

2009 brought the Members' photographic evening and then Ron and Myra Glover described some of their cruising through

Germany. We had a visit by Peter Payne talking about his life as a Thames lock-keeper at St Johns Lock.

Alan Smith's talk on Alaska and the Yukon was very good especially for Eric and Sue Lewis who did the same trip one week later in brilliant weather. At the end of April, we moved down the American coast as Roger Squires told us about the Panama Canal. In June we stayed local for a change with the Silent Auction.

Last but not least! Our President Brian Evans. Although I missed it, Alan was full of enthusiasm over the very good slides and "banter" of the evening.

We hope you enjoy our speakers. The Committee would be pleased to hear of any other topics that could make an interesting evening or Society trip. Our meetings continue to be advertised in local and national waterways newssheets and other publications as we are able.

Sales of Society clothing are slow at present, we need to encourage more Sales!

We trust you feel the Society has enjoyed another successful year.

Angela Rose
Secretary

SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 31 JULY 2008

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. CHAIRMAN

The Annual General Meeting was chaired by Paul Herbert, Chairman of Southampton Canal Society.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from:-

Eric & Sue Lewis
Alan & Adrienne Howarth
Ray & Joan Smith
Linda Pearce
Ann Phippard

3. ATTENDANCE

A register was circulated and 24 members recorded their attendance. The attendance register forms part of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

4. MINUTES OF 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on 26 July 2007 had been provided to all members attending the meeting. The Chairman explained the wording that had been necessary in order to comply with the requirements of the new Bank Mandate. On being put to the vote, the minutes were accepted by the members present. The Chairman signed the minutes as an accurate reflection of the business discussed at that meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report had been provided to all members attending the meeting. Therefore, Paul Herbert presented his report, as read, just highlighting items of particular note.

As the Society entered its 42nd year we could look back on the last year with pride and a sense of achievement. We had enjoyed a very successful programme of speakers and other monthly events, including the special return visit by Day-Star Theatre. In addition there had been outings to the River Wey & Godalming Navigation, the Basingstoke Canal and The Watercress Line. There had been another Skittles Outing and the Society Boat Gathering. Many members had purchased the new range of 40th anniversary clothing. During the year we had welcomed six new members but sadly had to say a final farewell to Eric Mayhew, a former member for many years. There had been changes as far as Society Officers etc were concerned and we welcomed new Committee members in their place.

Looking forward to the new year, an interesting and varied programme of speakers and other activities had been arranged. Our financial position was sound but the priority task remained increasing our membership base. Finally, the Chairman wished to thank all those members who helped in any way with the running of the Society and for their continued support.

There were no questions.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report had been provided to all members attending the meeting. Therefore, Angela Rose presented her report as read, just highlighting items of particular note, including the success of the 40th anniversary clothing, proposed marketing initiatives and seeking new ideas and topics from members for the 2009 programme. There were no questions.

7. TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report, which included the un-audited income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st March 2007 and the balance sheet as at 31 March 2007, had been provided to all members attending the meeting. Ann Coleman presented her report as read, highlighting items of particular note. She advised of an amendment to her report which stated that the income and expenditure year-end account showed a profit of £178.67. However, this had to be adjusted because of the Creditors figure of -£73.31 (for Officers' expenses) and the actual profit was, therefore, £105.36. The surplus was entirely due to the profits made from Boat Trips, Clothing Sales, Raffles and Day-Star Theatre, which between them netted £1,015.61. The report also referred to subscription income, the cost of speakers and the cost of producing the Newsletter. Anne Coleman referred to proposed changes to the Society's accountancy system in order to simplify the accounts. Regarding membership there had been net gains over the year and efforts had been made to recover outstanding subscriptions. There was a real need to recruit more members.

There was one question on the accounts concerning the increased expenditure on hall hire fees during 2007/08. The Treasurer advised that that was due to advance payments for 2008/09.

It was proposed by Maureen Greenham and seconded by David Townley-Jones that the Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report and the accounts be accepted (subject to Audit) and that was approved by the members present.

(Continued from page 4)

8. REVIEW OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Committee had reviewed the Society's membership subscription rates bearing in mind the Society's current financial position and was recommending that there be no increase in respect of 2008/09. It was being further recommended that, in future, the membership year be brought in line with the Society's financial year, viz. 1 April to 31 March.

It was **proposed** by Maureen Greenham and **seconded** by David Townley-Jones that the two above recommendations be adopted.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE AND RELATED MATTERS

That part of the Annual General Meeting was chaired by the President, Brian Evans.

The President reminded members that all officer and committee posts were up for annual election.

Regarding the election of officers, the Chairman advised that he, the Secretary and the Treasurer & Membership Secretary were willing to serve for a further year. The remaining Committee members, Peter Oates, David Townley-Jones, Maureen Greenham and Alan Rose, had all indicated their willingness to serve for a further year. Alan Rose was willing to take on the vacant position of Vice-Chairman and Maureen Greenham had offered to become Assistant Treasurer & Membership Secretary in order to assist Anne Coleman with those duties. There had been no other nominations for officer posts or to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The following officer appointments were proposed:-

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Chairman	Paul Herbert	David Townley-Jones	Aelred Derbyshire
Vice-Chairman	Alan Rose	Paul Herbert	Maureen Greenham
Secretary	Angela Rose	Annegret Evans	Brenda Pomeroy
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Ann Coleman	Terry Phippard	Michael Pomeroy
Assistant Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Maureen Greenham	Alan Rose	David Townley-Jones

Upon being put to the vote, the above officer appointments were approved by the members present.

Regarding the election of other committee members, it was **proposed** by Alan Rose and **seconded** by Laurie Pearce that Peter Oates and David Townley-Jones be re-appointed to the Committee. Upon being put to the vote, those committee appointments were approved by the members present.

Peter Oates had confirmed his willingness to continue as the Society Webmaster and Editor of the Newsletter.

Laura Sturrock had confirmed her willingness to continue as the Society's Auditor. Members confirmed that appointment.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Robb Unsworth had given prior written notice of two items under this heading:-

1. Could the Committee consider a sound system (microphone) for use of our speakers?
2. At monthly meetings, after general introductions, might the Chairman invite the members to raise any matters (canal related)?

Following discussion it was agreed that both suggestions had merit. Regarding (1) above, the Committee would look into the alternatives. Regarding (2) above, that would become Society policy as from the next meeting.

Rob Unsworth also wished to take the opportunity to "thank all the Committee for the super job done by all".

There had been no notice of any other business, relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Treasurer's Report - 2008/09

This year, the good news is that we have taken more money than in the previous year in respect of subscriptions, raffle and refreshments! Subscriptions are up by nearly £200, and whilst some of this is due to members paying overdue amounts for earlier years, it's still a pleasing trend, as we were able to welcome several new members to the club this year.

We have also reduced our outgoings on the newsletters, due to a large number of members changing over to receiving them by email, which cuts the printing and postage costs.

This means that we have a healthy bank balance and have been able to increase our donations to waterways charities. This is masked somewhat, as you will see from the figures at the AGM, by advance payments paid out for the meal at Blue Hayes, and for clothing stock for sale, but the overall trend is upwards, and in the current economic climate, that's no small thing!

Anne Coleman
Treasurer

Accounts - Year ended 31 March 2009

Unfortunately, these accounts were not available at the time this Newsletter went to press.

Chairman's Report - 2008/09

I am pleased to present to members of Southampton Canal Society my eighth Chairman's Report.

Where does time go.....it only seems a few months ago that I sat down to write my 2007/08 Chairman's Report?

There have been a number of 'interesting' developments on the waterways at national level. We have had the continuing fiasco over the derogation of red diesel and the confusion to boatyards and boaters as to how their fuel bill should be split; increased funding for British Waterways (but what does this really mean?); the continuing controversy over BW's auction of its mooring sites; and BW has been going through yet another national re-organisation. We have seen two new major waterways links opened – the fantastic new canal across Liverpool's famous waterfront and the new Boston Lock, which hopefully will gradually open up new cruising areas, linking to existing waterways, in East Anglia. On the River Thames new transport plans have been announced which should be a boost for its ferry services.

On the local front, we have heard a lot about progress with the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project; our friends at the Wey & Arun Canal Trust have launched their new all-electric trip boat 'Wiggonholt' (bringing their fleet up to three) and the major construction of the new Loxwood High Street Bridge was recently completed allowing canal access to a new lock and the restored length of canal beyond; and more problems on the Basingstoke Canal with crumbling lock gates etc.

As far as Southampton Canal Society is concerned, we have had another good year. Our speakers' programme was as varied as ever. We 'travelled the railways' on 'The Watercress Line' (as a follow-up to our actual visit to that railway earlier in 2008); we heard about the Purton Hulks; we crossed Germany from West to East; we heard all about the life of a Thames Lock-keeper; we went across the Atlantic in order to travel north to Alaska and the Yukon; then a quick trip south the following month to the Panama Canal; before finishing that 2008/09 programme with a 'potpourri' of tales and slides from home and abroad.

We played Skittles in Hursley again and ran our first General Quiz & Silent Auction Evening. We also enjoyed our usual 'favourites', the Inter-Society Waterways Quiz, won by the Society Team (well done to them) and the Members' Photographic Evening, the return visit of Day-Star Theatre, and our two American Suppers. We had two outings during the year, the Gosport Ferry Three Rivers Cruise and the Salter Bros River Thames Trip. We must not, of course, forget our New Year's Lunch or the Society Boat Gathering. All in all, a very full year!

Sales of our latest branded clothing designs continue and I am sure Angela and Alan would be delighted to sell you even more!

On the membership front we have introduced a new database, for the Society's use only.

We lost some members during the year due to retirement, namely Bob & Ann Dukes, Frank Stokes and Rogan & Lynn Olding. Sadly two of our long standing members, Michael Pomeroy and Alan Moore passed away.

Our financial base remains sound, so much so that members are being recommended at the AGM to approve donations to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and the Wey & Arun Canal Trust.

I would now like to thank all those without whose efforts the Society would not be able to function. As usual I must start with the other officers and committee members : our Vice-Chairman,

Alan Rose; Secretary, Angela Rose; Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Anne Coleman; Outings Organiser, Maureen Greenham; Raffle Manager, David Townley-Jones; and last but by no means least, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, Peter Oates.

Peter Oates has decided to retire from the Committee. Now that he lives in the Midlands it is simply not practical for him to come all the way to the Southampton area and stay overnight for a three hour meeting. However, I am delighted that he has offered to be co-opted on in the future for any special projects. All the other existing officers and committee members have indicated their willingness to stand for election for a further year. Peter has confirmed he is happy to continue as editor of the monthly Newsletter and as our webmaster (unless anyone else would like to take over!) and Laura Sturrock is willing to continue as our Auditor/Examiner.

Many thanks to Alan Howarth for running the Society Library (and also to Alan and Adrienne for continuing to store all those boxes); to Laurie Pearce for his regular assistance with the raffle; and to Gill Herbert and her volunteers for providing our monthly refreshments. Our monthly raffle still remains our highest regular income and I would like to thank all those members who regularly donate prizes.

Our President, Brian Evans, is always there to give his support and advice. Thanks for that Brian. In addition, many thanks to those members who arrive early at our meetings and lay out the hall.

As for the future, we have an interesting and varied programme of speakers and other activities arranged, including the return of Day-Star Theatre at the end of September and a further Skittles Evening planned for November (though it is possible that date might change). Full details of our future programme will be published in the Newsletter. I would be delighted to hear from members any suggestions, either for speakers, or for any other activities likely to be of interest to their colleagues.

Our monthly Newsletter remains our most important marketing tool and service to our members, particularly to those unable to get to our meetings. Andy, our Printer, has continued his excellent service and we always receive issues on time for our monthly meetings. Many of our members now choose to receive their Newsletter via email – which means, of course, they receive a full colour version. With few exceptions all the input to the Newsletter is from Peter Oates and myself. Thank you to those members who have provided contributions and I would urge others to follow their example.

Looking back to my report last year I said that "In all my previous Annual Reports I stated that the future looked bright for the Society if we were able to maintain our membership numbers and our sound financial position. We have not managed to attract sufficient new members and we must all work hard to bring the existence of the Society to the attention of people with waterways interests, living in our area". That situation remains unchanged. Unless we can attract new members attendances at our monthly meetings will gradually reduce and the Society could face 'stagnation'.

I would like to conclude by thanking all members for your continued support of the Society as we prepare to enter our 43rd year.

*Paul Herbert
Chairman*