



# Newsletter

## Chairman's Column

What glorious weather! It allows us to enjoy outdoor life at home and boating on the canals is wonderful if not a little warm working the locks.

### No August Meeting

There will be NO August meeting as the hall is closed for maintenance until 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### July Meeting

The 2013-2014 AGM in July, was attended by 20 members. Our Chairman, Secretary and the Treasurer & Membership Secretary read out their respective reports, as detailed in the July Newsletter.

No significance changes are to be made this year. There will be no change in the annual subscription rates for next year, i.e. from April 2016, £27 per couple and £16 single.

I was very pleased to present on behalf of the Committee and all the Members a "Special Thank You" and an Amazon Voucher to Gill Herbert for her dedication, help, support and enthusiasm as her role as Treasurer & Membership Secretary for many years.

Thank you to the Committee and members for providing the Cheese & Wine supper to finish off the evening.

### September Meeting

On 3rd September, Aileen Butler will present a Magic Lantern Show of the Construction of the Manchester Ship Canal, plus other canal related pictures, etc.

NB As our normal hall will still be closed for maintenance, **this meeting will be held at a different venue**: St Denys' Church Hall, Old Chilworth Village, SO16 7NN. To get there from our usual venue, follow the A27 towards North Baddesley and Romsey. Ignore the left turn at the Chilworth Arms pub and also ignore the left turn 200 yards later to Chilworth Manor Hotel and the Southampton Science Park. About 350 yards further on, turn left into a road with signs saying Chilworth Old Village. Very shortly you should see St Denys' Church on your left. Parking should be possible in Fowler's Walk on your left or in the immediate vicinity. Please do not block the narrow lane.

### October Meeting

On the 1st October, SCS members Ron & Myra Glover will talk about their "Cruising around Vancouver" trip. This meeting will be back in our usual meeting place - Chilworth Parish Hall.

### November Meeting

Day-Star Theatre's yearly visit will be on 5th November. Pete & Jane Marshall have a change of programme for us with a series of sketches about aspects of ...yes... the canals! Some bits are being taken loosely from past shows. They simply call it "A Short Waterways Comedy" - it went down well at its first performance. Tickets will be £10 to include an American Supper and wine supplied by our Members. Further details to follow, watch this space!

### Margaret Froud

May I, on behalf of our members and friends of Ken and Margaret Froud and their family, pass on our thoughts and love as Margaret is becoming very tired and weak with the battle against her illness.

*Alan Rose*

## Paddle pawl design contributes to near sinking



FOLLOWING on from IWA's [recent report on its concerns about the Canal & River Trust's proposals to implement new paddle pawl designs](#), an incident was reported to the Association at the end of June that illustrates IWA's unease at the introduction of a paddle pawl design that would prevent paddles being wound down using two hands.

Boaters who regularly visit the UK's waterways from New

*(Continued on page 4)*

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## Bits and Pieces

### Best Wishes

The Society Secretary, Angela Rose, was due to have an operation in Southampton General Hospital at the beginning of July.

Unfortunately that had to be postponed until 20 August.

I'm sure that members will still want to wish her well.

### Co-op boss to chair Canal & River Trust

THE Canal & River Trust has named the successor to Tony Hales who will retire as chairman after its Annual Public Meeting and meeting of the Trust's Council in London on 23 September.

In line with the organisation's Articles of Association, trustees elected the next chair from their number when they met on 15 July.

Allan Leighton, chairman of the Co-operative Group, and formerly CEO of Asda Plc and chairman of the Royal Mail, will formally take over on 23 September, he joined the Board in September 2014.

Although retiring from the Trust, Tony Hales will continue to be a non-executive director of a number of other organisations. He'll remain a passionate supporter of the waterways.

## 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	Contact
Thu 6 Aug 2015 7.30pm		Mikron Theatre - "Raising Agents." Indoor show. Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Donnington, Chichester, PO19 8QT. (SU854034) Tickets £12.00 (£10.00 concs) on the door. Refreshments available.	Tel: 01243 576701
<b>Thu 6 Aug 2015</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>No meeting.</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>
Sun 16 Aug 2015 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk in area of the canal. For further details please contact: Mike Chapman 01225 426948	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948
<b>Thu 3 Sep 2015 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Aileen Butler will present a Magic Lantern Show of the Manchester Ship Canal construction, plus other canal related pictures, etc. NB change of venue: St Denys Church Hall, Old Chilworth Village, SO16 7NN (SU406187) - further details on page 1.</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>
Sat 12 Sep 2015 11.00am - 5.00pm	National Trust	Heritage Open Day: Airing the archives and artefact collection at Dapdune Wharf and the workshops at Send. Guided walk at 2pm from Dapdune to Guildford Town Centre and the tread wheel crane. Free admission. Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4RR (SU993502). Further info at <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-vey-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-vey-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf/</a>	Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Sat 12 Sep 2015 2.15pm	Wey & Arun CT	Alan Johnson will lead a four-mile circular walk to visit four sites containing relics of the canal and the Horsham to Guildford railway, including three iron-framed bridges. <b>Booking essential by 3 Sep.</b> Meet in the car park of Shamley Green Church, Church Hill, Shamley Green, Surrey GU5 0UD (TQ033434)	Bookings: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Sun 13 Sep 2015 2.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Heritage Open Day Guided Walk from Gunpowder Store at Stonebridge Wharf, Shalford along parts of the course of the canal to the former Bramley Wharf. The Gunpowder Store may also open. Approx 2.5km, 2 hours. Please wear appropriate footwear. <b>Booking essential by 11 Sept.</b> Parking available at Broadford Business Park, Shalford GU4 8EP (SU997467)(behind Parrot Inn, on the A248).	Bookings: 01483 505566 Email: <a href="mailto:events@weyandarun.co.uk">events@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk">www.weyandarun.co.uk</a>
Tue 15 Sep 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	'Heroes and Villains of the Basingstoke Canal' - Roger Cansdale. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917
Sat 19 Sep 2015 from 11.00am	National Trust	Wey River Festival. Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4RR (SU993502). Further info at <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-vey-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/river-vey-godalming-navigations-and-dapdune-wharf/</a>	Navigations Office: 01483 561389 Email: <a href="mailto:riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk">riverwey@nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
<b>Thu 1 Oct 2015 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Myra Glover will talk about their "Cruising around Vancouver" trip. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>
Thu 15 Oct 2015 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Group	Joeys, Joshers and James by Phil Clayton. This will cover the beginnings, growth, working years, decline and revival of the B.C.N. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AR (SU182275).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover.3@btinternet.com">glover.3@btinternet.com</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Tue 20 Oct 2015 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	'Boating over Grass in Poland' - David Copley. Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU692718). £2.50 (incl K&A members) to help pay for the room hire.	John Swift: 0118 941 5540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07533 886917
<b>Thu 5 Nov 2015 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>Day-Star Theatre will present "A Short Waterways Comedy". Further details on page 1. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:alanjrose@btinternet.com">alanjrose@btinternet.com</a></b>

## UK waterways see 30% rise in visits

VISITS to waterways in the UK in particular have seen a staggering 30% rise in visits since 2010, with Canal & River Trust estimating that there were 360 million visits to canals and rivers in 2014 alone.

The millions of people who regularly visit canals and rivers are more satisfied with their lives and less anxious, government statistics have found.

The government body, Natural England, recorded 2.93 billion visits to natural environments including parks, canals and countryside last year - the most in the last five years. When asked about their life satisfaction and anxiety levels, those people who spent more time visiting outdoor spaces showed markedly more positive ratings. Participants were asked to mark their life satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 10. Those who visited the outdoors several times a week were on average 7% more satisfied, 6% happier and 7% less anxious than those who visited less often.

Emma Aitken, National Campaigns Manager at Canal & River Trust

commented: "People in urban areas often don't find enough time to get outdoors, so it's great to see more people are taking advantage of our canals, which are only a stone's throw from many of our major cities. In fact, half of the country's population lives within five miles of one of our waterways. We want to make sure there's always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature."

In reaction to this boost in visitors, Canal & River Trust began documenting the experiences of those who visit, work and live by canals and rivers to find out what they enjoy about the historic waterways of England and Wales.

The Trust's Humans of the Waterways blog features photographs and personal stories from people from all over the country. One contributor, Sarah, visiting the canal in Clarence Mill, Cheshire, explained why the waterways are so special to her:

(Continued on page 3)

## June Meeting

### The History of Canal and Traditional Narrowboat Painting - John Ross

Our June speaker, John Ross, firstly introduced himself and gave a brief history of the canals starting with the Duke of Bridgewater and the Bridgewater Canal moving on to our local Basingstoke Canal.

He explained that the old boatmen started to decorate their boats as we do our own homes. Theirs became much more flamboyant than ours. The insides and outsides of the cabins were decorated with Roses and Castles in bright colours.

He explained briefly how he took up the canal art a few years ago after originally studying art at college.

He then remembered that in the garage he had an old Mirror dinghy that he had purchased for £105 in 1971. This he decided could be a demonstration of his art skills. The dinghy after very elaborate decoration could be seen around the various canal meetings. It went on to win awards including an early Basingstoke Canal Cavalcade. The dinghy ended up with a cabin he could sleep in and now an extension over the small outboard.

He became a member of the Waterways Crafts Guild which provides an opportunity to encourage members to learn the art of boat decoration and to maintain standards and heighten awareness to this very skilful art. John now spends much of his time teaching his skills on a one to one basis and demonstrations of his art to societies such as our own Southampton Canal Society.

He then went on to explain the various stages of canal art, starting



John Ross and his Mirror Dinghy

with the different brushes and how to look after these expensive items - the cleaning and preserving them including putting Vaseline on them to keep the paint out of the bristles when not in use. The Mahl stick for resting your arm on while making delicate strokes and, of course, the types of paints used.

John then went on to the painting technique itself.

We were shown how to paint the roses, starting with a circle then filling it in with a blob of paint.

The petals were then added, followed by the greenery, normally the paint would be left to dry between coats but in true Blue Peter style he had some that had been prepared earlier.

All these procedures were shown to us, being painted on boarding with great skill.

We were then shown the build up of the landscapes, starting with the sky and clouds, followed by the mountains and land. The castles and rivers were then drawn in followed by detail such as windows, battlements, doors, birds etc.

It all ended up in a scene of great detail.

The evening was a great success and was much appreciated by all that attended.

Not wanting John to go home without one of his best brushes we dismantled a radiator to get out a brush that had fallen through.

*Alan Rose*

## Junior lock keepers needed on historic Caen Hill

Young canal adventurers with a love of the waterways are being invited to come along to Wiltshire's historic Caen Hill Locks for the chance to try their hands at lock keeping this summer.

Working with staff from the Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after the Kennet & Avon Canal, the young explorers will be helping out alongside friendly and experienced volunteer lock keepers to operate locks and aid boaters as they travel up and down the much loved staircase of locks.

Taking place on Tuesdays throughout August, this free experience is open to anyone between the ages of 7-14. During the hour long session, the junior lock keepers will be shown how to operate the locks, discover exactly why we need locks on the canal and also find out how we look after our locks and towpaths.

### Fun day out for all

Elaine Stanley, education co-ordinator at the Canal & River Trust, said: "Caen Hill Locks is a beautiful spot on the Kennet & Avon Canal, and is ideal for any youngsters wanting to have a go at being a lock

keeper. With 16 locks to work and a whole host of boats to help navigate their way down the canal, the experience will certainly keep any eager children and their parents busy and will hopefully be an enjoyable day for everyone."

Junior lock keepers will need to wear sensible shoes and be accompanied by an adult. Full safety instructions and life jackets will be provided, and all participants will be rewarded with a goody bag and certificate at the end of their session. Families can also take part in other activities that don't require booking, including pond dipping, throughout the day.

Booking is essential, so to reserve your place please contact Elaine Stanley in the education team on 07733 124565 or email [elaine.stanley@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:elaine.stanley@canalrivertrust.org.uk).

For more on the Trust's education programme and to find out how we can work with your primary school to bring the waterways to life log onto the education website at [www.canalriverexplorers.org.uk](http://www.canalriverexplorers.org.uk).

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/> 20 July 2015

## UK waterways visitors

*(Continued from page 2)*

"Most days I'm sat behind a desk crunching numbers as an accountant, so I love being outdoors. Along the canals I can see wildlife and beautiful scenery, all the things I can't see from my office window."

Ingrid Riches, Digital Marketing Manager at Canal & River Trust commented on the importance of the Humans of the Waterways project: "The canals and rivers of England and Wales are not only of

great historical importance, but also provide a fantastic haven for people to relax and enjoy nature. We've met jugglers, buskers, filmmakers, army veterans as well as boaters and anglers to name but a few, and we hope that the Humans of the Waterways blog will become a great archive for everyone to access, showcasing these fantastic stories."

*Towpath Talk* 21 July 2015



**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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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SouthamptonCanalSociety>

## Canals and rivers to get more recycling bins

IN RESPONSE to boater demand, and to make the canals even greener, the Canal & River Trust is installing recycling bins on canals and rivers at almost 100 sites around the country.

Boaters are keen to see more recycling bins on the waterway and this ties in with the Trust's ambition to encourage responsible recycling and get people to think about how they treat their rubbish.

The Trust will be removing some of its general waste bins and replacing them one-for-one with recycling bins. While many canals have recycling banks nearby, the Trust hopes that having visible, easy access bins will make it easier for boaters.

The bins will be installed in north Wales and Cheshire from mid-July, and will then be rolled out across the nation's canals and rivers. The Trust will be publishing information about the location of the sites on its website as well as providing on-site signs about the facilities.

Vince Moran, operations director at the Trust, said: "Recycling bins are great for everybody: they give boaters what they want and help send out a message about how to get rid of your rubbish responsibly

and in the most environmentally sound manner. While our waste contractors do recycle much of our waste at the end of the collection process, this is something that can't be seen by the public. Recycling bins provide a visual reminder to people to recycle as much as they can, and encourage environmentally conscious behaviour. We all want to see a healthy environment. Please use the new bins as much as you can, and make sure you look after them, so they can be as effective as possible."

Reducing waste and increasing recycling forms a key part of the Trust's Green Plan, which has been in operation since 2010. The Plan aims to reduce the charity's carbon emissions and ensure it operates as sustainably as possible. It looks at factors including gas, electricity, recycling, contractors and sustainable procurement.

The Trust has reduced its carbon emissions by an astonishing 26% in five years and received accreditation from the Carbon Trust. This was achieved through strenuous efforts to reduce energy usage and to promote greener means of transport.

*[Towpath Talk](#) 15 July 2015*

## Paddle pawl design

*(Continued from page 1)*

Zealand were boating down Baddiley No3 Lock on the Llangollen Canal. Two ladies were operating the difficult lock, needing two hands to move the paddles just one click at a time. The boater left his boat to assist them but suddenly noticed that the bow was hung up on the lock.

He asked for the paddles to be dropped as quickly as possible, which proved very difficult as the ratchet pawl on these locks cannot be thrown back but must be held back as the paddle is lowered. Those operating the lock struggled with this as they had insufficient strength in just one hand to lower the paddle. Fortunately, the boater had the foresight to open the upstream paddles whilst the other paddles were lowered, which put more water into the lock than was going out and avoided disaster. A less experienced boater may have been less fortunate.

The boater readily admitted that they should not have had the boat so far forward but also highlighted that if the paddles had been easy to operate he would not have left the boat to help and those operating the lock would have seen the boat was hung rather than putting all their energy into moving the paddles. Furthermore, if the ratchet lock had been like most that can be lifted clear the paddles

could have been lowered with two hands more quickly.

This incident illustrates IWA's concerns about CRT's proposals and emphasises not just the benefit of having ratchets that can be flipped back rather than having to be held up but also the importance of having locks that are easy to operate as even experienced boaters can find themselves in tricky situations.

*<https://www.waterways.org.uk/news/> 15 July 2015*

The Canal & River Trust has announced that they will be running trials of modified pawl catches at different locations across the country in an attempt to prevent the possibility of windlasses flying off. Their plan is to add a stop so it is impossible for the paddle to drop without the pawl engaging. What CRT seem not to have taken into account is that in doing this you need one hand on the pawl and only one hand on the windlass. Many believe that adding this stop to prevent one danger of a flying windlass they are introducing another just as serious danger, there is no way a paddle can be dropped in an emergency against a head of water with one hand on the pawl and one on the windlass.

CRT say they will be keen to hear boaters' feedback. Any comments or suggestions should be sent to the project manager at [jonathan.pritchett@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.pritchett@canalrivertrust.org.uk).