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Bits and Pieces

August Newsletter

Despite having a rest(?) from producing Newsletter last month, I still seem to have run out of much time to produce this issue. Hopefully, a fuller issue will appear for September.

Peter Oates

HS2 at Fradley Junction

Under HS2's proposals, a permanent access road would have been built adjacent to the Trent & Mersey Canal at Pyford Brook, in the popular Fradley Junction area.

Following extensive negotiations, HS2 has agreed to introduce an 'Additional Provision' to address our concerns. HS2's access road will be rerouted to radically reduce the visual and aural impact on boaters and canal visitors in the area.

We have also reached agreement with HS2 on minimising the impact of construction works in the area. This includes reducing the impact of works on the canal towpath and minimising canal closures, especially during peak seasons, to facilitate works.

Peter Walker, head of technical support at the Canal & River Trust, said: "The Fradley Junction area, where the Coventry Canal joins the Trent & Mersey Canal, is one of the busiest and most vibrant places on the waterways.

CRT Press Release

Chairman's Column

Rather warm

Summer greetings to you all in this hottest summer since 1976.

It brings back memories of walking on Swanage downs with our boys, hankies on their heads, of camping at Knitsons and seeing the Persiads shooting stars in abundance. It was also my first go at trapezing on a Fireball dinghy. I subsequently then got a set of plans and built my own a couple years later. A very fast and exhilarating dinghy.

September Meeting

Tony Shadick hopes to be able to show four videos, given time.

First will be the Anniversary Trip on the Basingstoke Canal in June 2017.

It will be followed by three shorter videos:

2. The Hockley Viaduct, Winchester
3. "Sprat and Winkle Line" – Romsey to Andover Railway, Anniversary 2015
4. "Jigsaw Journey on the Andover-Redbridge Canal at Romsey", our part in the celebration of IWA's 50th anniversary, 1996

Annual General Meeting

The Society 52nd Annual General Meeting held on the 5th of July was well received.

As was the summer buffet which finished off the

Canal Closures

Due to the continued drawdown of the reservoirs, the prolonged low rainfall and with the forecast for further dry weather, CRT will be implementing temporary closures to navigation on a number of waterways mainly in the north of England.

It's not clear how long the closures or restrictions will last for but it's likely to be throughout August and potentially beyond if there is no significant, sustained rainfall. While the closures will prevent use of these stretches of canal by boats the towpath will remain open for visitors and the local community alike to enjoy.

The following list of these closures (both current and proposed) has been trawled from the CRT website on 26 July. Updated information on these and other restrictions to navigation can be found at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices/>

Leeds & Liverpool Canal

From below lock 85 on the Wigan Flight to below lock 30 at Gargrave commencing on Monday 30 July.

The lock flights at Wigan (locks 65 to 85), Barrowford Locks (45 to 51), Greenberfield Locks (42 to 44), Bank Newton Locks (36 to 41) and Gargrave (Holme Bridge Lock 30) will be padlocked closed and the gates will be ashed up to reduce leakage. To prevent unauthorised access though vandalism,

measures will be taken to make the locks inoperable. A little discussion was had as to whether it was the 51st or the 52nd AGM. (To be continued.)

IWA Festival of Water

The IWA Festival of Water is, this year being held over the August Bank holiday weekend 25th & 26th of August at St Neots on the Great River Ouse. Angela and myself will be attending and, as we have not ventured these waters before, and to possibly make it a little easier, we will be cruising on "Liberty" our 34 year old and much loved 42ft Colecraft, fitted out by us and boys on the Engine House Arm on the Napton Flight.

Canal Closures

Drought has closed quite a number of canal sections due to lack of water and some misuse at the locks. Further information can be found below and on <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices/>

In memoriam

I am sorry to inform you that our former member, John Massy, passed away at the beginning of July at the grand age of 93 and at home as he desired. John and his late wife Eileen were keen members for many years including volunteering for working parties on both the Basingstoke Canal and Itchen Navigation.

Alan Rose

measures will be taken to make the locks inoperable.

Bingley Five Rise and Bingley Three Rise Locks will be restricted to passage at the following times; passage down in the morning (between 8am and 12pm) and passage up in the afternoon (between 1pm and 5pm). The lock flights will be padlocked closed at 5pm. Please ensure that you enter the lock flight with sufficient time to get through, noting the last passage commencement times above. Moorings are available at the top and bottom of the flights.

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal is currently closed to navigation between Bridge 10 (Holmes Swing Bridge) to Stanley Top Lock / Eldonian Village in Liverpool due to a collapsed culvert (No. 29) in Melling. Works continue on site and the team are now in the process of installing the new culvert. An update will be issued on Friday 27 July 2018.

Huddersfield Narrow Canal

CRT will be closing navigation between locks 24 West to 1 East (from above Uppermill across to Huddersfield), commencing on Monday 6 August. The locks will be padlocked closed and the gates will be ashed up to reduce leakage. To prevent use, measures will be taken to make the locks inoperable.

(Continued on page 4)

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
Sat-Sun 28-29 Jul 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Crofton 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 28 Jul 2018 1.00pm	Mikron Theatre	Get Well Soon. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Refreshments available. Gates open from 12pm for picnics. Outdoor show with shelter. Bring picnic, chairs and blankets.	Bloomfield Road Allotments, Bloomfield Road, Bear Flat, Bath, BA2 2AB (ST745637).	Tel: 07867 532512 Web: www.banesallotments.org.uk or mikron.org.uk
Sat 28 Jul 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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
Tue 31 Jul 2018 3.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Get Well Soon. Tickets £12.50 (£8 Child Ticket Concs.) must be booked in advance from Sue 01491 835631. Bistro menu available at extra cost on the day (no need to book). Refreshments, beer and food available. Outdoor show.	Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916).	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Tue 31 Jul 2018 8.00pm	Mikron Theatre	Revolting Women. Tickets £12.50 (£8 Child Ticket Concs.) must be booked in advance from Sue 01491 835631. Bistro menu available at extra cost on the night (no need to book). Refreshments, beer and food available. Outdoor show.	Waterfront Café, Benson Marina, Benson, OX10 6SJ (SU613916).	Tel: 01491 835631 Web: www.waterfrontcafe.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Thu 2 Aug 2018	Southampton CS	NO AUGUST MEETING. As always, there will be NO August Meeting as the hall is closed for maintenance.		Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 2 Aug 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Revolting Women. No tickets required, cash collection after show. Beer and food available. Outdoor show with shelter. Bring chairs and blankets.	The Plough, High Street, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QH (SU545937).	Tel: 01865 407738 Web: mikron.org.uk
Sat 11 Aug 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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
Sat 18 Aug 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, 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
Mon 20 Aug 2018 7.30pm	Mikron Theatre	Get Well Soon. Tickets £10.00 - available from The Council Office, Ockwells, 113 High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6AE. Bring chairs and blankets. Bring your own refreshments. Outdoor event with indoor alternative in the case of bad weather.	Cricklade Bloomers, Brook House, High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6DD (SU101938). To be confirmed.	Cricklade Town Council: 01793 751394 Web: www.crickladeinbloom.co.uk or mikron.org.uk
Sat-Sun 25-27 Aug 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	August Bank Holiday 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 25 Aug 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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 6 Sep 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Tony Shadick will remind us of our 50th anniversary boat cruise on the Basingstoke Canal and other videos of local transport interest. See Chairman's Column on page 1 of this Newsletter.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 8 Sep 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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
Sat 15 Sep 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, 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-Sat 16 Sep 2018 12.30pm-5.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Heritage open day guided walk from Gunpowder Store (Shalford) to Bramley. Approx 2.5km, 2 hours, starting from Stonebridge Wharf, the walk follows parts of the course of the original canal to the former Bramley Wharf. Gunpowder Store may also open. Free of charge (donations to WACT welcome). Pre-book required: online, by email or phone by noon, 13 Sep 2018.	Meet at Gunpowder Store, Stonebridge Wharveside, Shalford, GU4 8EH (SU998465). Parking available at Broadford Business Park, Shalford GU4 8EP (SU998467) (behind the Parrot Inn) on the A248 Shalford-Godalming road.	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: weyandarun.org.uk/events33

Waterway Events (continued from page 2)

Date/Time	Organiser	Details	Venue	Contact
Sat 22 Sep 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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
Sat-Sun 29-30 Sep 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Crofton 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 30 Sep 2018 2.00pm	Wey & Arun CT	Official opening of the new Summit Slipway. All are welcome, especially if you have any type of boat that you can bring along – it will be possible to launch trailable boats via the slipway. If you wish to attend, please register your interest via Wey & Arun website.	Thriscutt Slipway (on the Summit Level of the canal near Alford and Dunsfold, Surrey). (approx TQ034357)	Trust Office: 01483 505566 Email: events@weyandarun.co.uk Web: weyarun.org.uk/events37
Thu 4 Oct 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	The steamer VIC32. Ron and Myra Glover will tell us about their Scottish cruise on the steamer VIC 32. This will include the Crinan Canal.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Sat 6 Oct 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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
Sat 13 Oct 2018 10.15am-3.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust AGM	Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7LB (SU399903).	Trust Office: 0845 625 1977 Email: info@wbct.org.uk Web: https://www.wbct.org.uk/
Sat 13 Oct 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Static (not pumping) day. Adults: £4.00, 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
Sat 20 Oct 2018 10.00am-5.00pm	The Claverton Group	Claverton Pumping Station. Pumping day. 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
Sat 28 Oct 2018 10.30am-4.30pm	Kennet & Avon CT, Crofton Branch	Crofton Halloween steaming. Adults: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Children under 16: Free.	Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3DW (SU261623).	Web: www.croftonbeamengines.org
Thu 8 Nov 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	"Canalling in the late 50's and 60's" is the title of Nick Grundy's talk. This will be based upon the diaries of his grandfather's holiday and campaign cruises.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com
Thu 6 Dec 2018 7.45pm	Southampton CS	Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. Salisbury IWA will be in charge of this year's quiz evening.	Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ (SU410184).	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: alanjrose@btinternet.com

CRT Annual Report & Accounts 2017/18 published

Our 2017/18 Annual Report & Accounts chart a further year of progress. In particular it has been a record year for volunteering with active volunteers now significantly exceeding the number of employees as they help deliver our charitable objectives as a Trust for the waterways and wellbeing.

In addition to volunteers clocking-up more than 600,000 hours, with a remarkable 96% satisfaction rate, the overall condition of our waterways continued to improve year-on-year with core spending on waterway infrastructure, maintenance and repairs rising to almost £132m.

Richard Parry, chief executive, comments: "We have seen another strong year as the Trust works towards its vision of transforming places and enriching lives. Our continued growth in volunteering complements and enhances the vital work that our experienced and skilled colleagues deliver.

"Our work across the network has been underpinned by an increase in the number of boats together with strong investment and income performance which now sees the Trust generate more than £150m each year in addition to our £50m government grant. This means we can continue the underlying increase in spend on the care and repair of our waterways."

Highlights in the 2017/18 Annual Report & Accounts include:

- Volunteering exceeding 600,000 hours, with 96% satisfaction amongst our volunteers
- 225 community adoptions, empowering local people to get involved

- An improvement in the overall condition of the waterways and a rise to £131.6m in core spending on waterway infrastructure, maintenance and repairs
- Strong investment performance which, together with our sources of income, generated over £200m
- A rise in boat numbers to over 34,000 with the lowest ever licence evasion
- A 15% growth in Friends to 24,000 with donations up to £6.1m, including from players of the People's Postcode Lottery
- A further reduction in unplanned closures to navigation
- An improvement in towpath user satisfaction with 372m visits to our waterways and visitors to our museums up 39% to 48,000
- Engagement with 80,000 children through our Explorers education programme
- Green Flag status awarded to 160 miles of waterways
- Publication of our Outcomes Measurement Framework to capture and quantify the benefits that waterways and our work make to society
- A relaunch of our brand position to reach new audiences and better reflect the ambition to be a charity for the waterways and wellbeing

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

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 in this issue) 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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Brian Evans.

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Secretary:

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

Canal Closures

(Continued from page 1)

Rochdale Canal

CRT will be closing sections of the Rochdale Canal between locks 1 and 48 (from Sowerby Bridge to Littleborough), commencing on Monday 6 August. A short stretch of the navigation between locks 6 and 19 (east of Mytholmroyd to Todmorden) is an exception and will be restricted to the period between 10am and 2pm under a local booking system. A further notice issued today states that full closure between locks 7 and 11 has been imposed.

The locks, 19 to 48, will be padlocked closed and the gates will be ashed up to reduce leakage. To prevent use, measures will be taken to make the locks inoperable.

Peak Forest Canal

Due to further movement of the chamber wall at Marple Lock 11, the lock is now too narrow for boats to fit through safely. As such, the Marple Lock Flight is closed to navigation.

CRT considered repeating the jacking operation to the lock walls to try and get a couple of additional weeks of navigation. However, they have dismissed this option as this would likely take around 2 weeks to complete and would coincide with the date they have decided to close the Marple and Bosley Flights to preserve water on the Upper Peak Forest and Macclesfield Canals.

CRT are busy planning to complete the re-building of the lock walls and the Flight will remain closed until this is complete. They will be able to provide an update on the proposed timescales as soon as they are available.

June Meeting

Royal National Lifeboat Institution - Caroline Tilley

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution representative Caroline Tilley and her team produced a very informative and interesting evening.

The RNLI was formed on the 4th March 1824 by William M Hillary. It is now reckoned to be the best in the world able to help with flood and sea rescues. Our local stations are on the River Hamble, Fawley, Cowes, Yarmouth, Lyminster and Christchurch. All UK waters and the Republic of Ireland are included.

The range and type of boat required in this day are amazing from the all-weather, self-righting one hundred mile range craft controlled by a very experienced crew. Hover craft and smaller boats used for in shore rescues. Tower Bridge & Waterloo Bridge in London are stationed with

CRT is closing off access to Bugsworth Basin, on Monday 13 August.

Bosley Locks, Macclesfield Canal

The Bosley Flight (locks 1 to 12) are restricted to the period between 8am and 2pm. Whilst this will conserve water in the short term, CRT expect to temporarily close the canal at Bosley on Monday 13 August. The rest of the Macclesfield Canal (below Bosley) will remain unrestricted.

Glasson Locks, Lancaster Canal

Following a sustained period of warm weather, there are unexpected levels of weed growth on the feed at Tewitfield on the Lancaster Canal. This has resulted in low water levels. To conserve as much water as possible, the Glasson Flight has been closed to navigation.

Weaver Navigation

Serious damage has been caused to the lock gates at Marsh Lock due to a large vessel running into them. The repairs will be a long process and the lock is now closed until further notice. There will be no passage between the Manchester Ship Canal and Weaver Navigation until further notice.

There are also restrictions on the use of Saltersford, Dutton, Hunts and Vale Royal Locks.

Middlewich Branch, Shropshire Union Canal

Since the breach on 15th March, work has been progressing to provide access the breach area. Repairs to rebuild the embankment itself will then follow. The design for the embankment repair is complex but this is progressing and nearing completion.

The canal is expected to be re-opened at Christmas; further information will be available as the extent of the repair work is confirmed and timescales become clearer.

paid crew.

Not forgetting the many seaside and lifeboat stations dotted around our coastal areas where 170-190 people are drowned each year, dialling 999 for the Coastguard can be only 10 minutes away to save a life.

Funding is a primarily from the many dedicated Volunteers collecting funds from gatherings like ours, visiting schools and shopping areas. Their table of RNLI goodies was well supported by us and a donation was given from our Society.

Angela Rose